

Israeli settlers protest on Jordan border

SHEIKH HUSSEIN BRIDGE (AFP) — Dozens of Jewish settlers from the Jordan Valley occupied this bridge leading into Jordan Sunday in protest at the Israeli government's failure to provide promised subsidies to their farms, police said. The protesters came from about 10 agricultural settlements from the Jordan Valley region of the West Bank. The settlers complain that despite promises of financial support for their settlements from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, they have yet to receive promised government aid. Mr. Netanyahu has said Israel will maintain control of the rich Jordan Valley under any agreement with the Palestinians over the final status of the West Bank, which Israel seized from Jordan in the 1967 Mideast war.

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PHOTO TAKEN FOR LOVE GIVEN: Jordan's orphans pose for a group photo, their gift to His Majesty King Hussein on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of his accession to the Throne. The children are gathered on the lawn in front of their new home, Dar Al Bin which was Al Hashemiyeh Royal Palace before it was transformed by the King into an orphanage in March. (Large photo on page 7)

Today, Jordan celebrates 45 years since King's accession

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Monday celebrates the 45th anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the Hashemite Throne.

On Aug. 11, 1952 the then 17-year-old prince became the King of Jordan, pursuing the march of the Great Arab Revolt which his late great grandfather Sharif Hussein Ben Ali had launched against foreign domination.

In celebrating the anniversary, Jordanians recall the King's untiring efforts in developing Jordan into a model democratic state and his sincere and dedicated efforts to achieve Arab solidarity and defend Arab causes. The King's work to move Jordan back into the foreground of regional and international momentum towards the 21st century has been recognised.

On the eve of the anniversary, the Jordan News Agency, Petra said that the occasion represents a symbol of the continued sacrifices and achievements accomplished by the Jordanian people under the King's leadership over more than four decades.

Petra said that the King's endeavours continue on the path of political pluralism, democracy and respect for human rights.

The celebration coincides with the Kingdom's ongoing preparations for parliamentary elections in November, an event which is bound to further enhance the march of democracy in the country and embody the aspirations of the Jordanian people, Petra added.

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Nation's aspirations in a just and comprehensive peace based on the exchange of land for peace, and on the principles of U.N. Security Council resolutions, Petra said.

Referring to Jordan's support for the Palestinians, Petra said that Jordan has never ceased to offer support for the Palestinian people in their ongoing struggle for freedom and has been continually providing assistance to alleviate the Palestinian people's sufferings under occupation rule.

Petra said that Jordan under King Hussein has followed moderate policies at the pan-Arab and international levels urging Arab countries to transcend their differences and work in concert to protect the nation's higher interest.

In pursuit of efforts to

attain the objectives of the Great Arab Revolt, King Hussein has made Jordan a haven for all Arabs seeking democracy, security and pan-Arab unity, said Petra.

In celebrating this anniversary, Petra added, the Jordanian people take pride in, express allegiance to the Hashemite Throne and assert their loyalty to a King, who over the past four decades, managed to make Jordan a modern state aspiring for further progress and prosperity.

On the eve of the anniversary, King Hussein received cables of good wishes from King Hassan II of Morocco, Omani Sultan Qaboos Ben Saeed, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, the United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan, Tunisian President Zein Al Abidine Ben

Ali, Lebanese President Elias Hrawi as well as other world leaders.

King Hussein received on this occasion a cable of good wishes from Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, speakers of parliament, heads of private and public organisations, tribal chieftains, professional associations, heads of local councils, and prominent personalities and key public figures.

In their cables they recalled the great achievements made under King Hussein's rule and their confidence of a brighter future in a country enjoying democracy and the rule of law.

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Israeli soldier killed and 3 hurt in a Hizbollah ambush

In retaliation, Israel shells southern Lebanon villages injuring civilians

Combined agency dispatches

HIZBOLLAH GUERRILLAS killed an Israeli soldier and wounded three others Sunday in an ambush on an Israeli patrol in south Lebanon, where tension is running high after a week of deadly violence.

Hizbollah fighters fired machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades at the patrol near Kfarhoune village in Israel's self-declared "security zone" in south Lebanon, security sources said.

They said the attack left one member of the patrol dead and three soldiers seriously injured.

A Hizbollah spokesman in Beirut claimed responsibility for the attack and said guerrillas exchanged fire with the Israeli patrol for half an hour.

"Enemy soldiers were killed and wounded in the ambush and Israeli helicopters landed at the scene of the attack to evacuate the bullet-riddled wounded, who were dying," the spokesman said.

Israeli artillery gunners rained shells on Hizbollah strongholds outside the occupied border zone in retaliation.

Two Israeli helicopters also

raked valleys used by guerrillas to infiltrate the occupied zone with heavy machine-gun fire, Lebanese police said. One fired wire-guided rockets at a forest next to the zone.

The attack came at the end of a week of particularly deadly clashes between Israel and the Shiite militia which has left 15 dead and 29 wounded.

Also on Sunday, five-year-old Lebanese girl was wounded when a shell hit an orphanage in south Lebanon, Lebanese security sources said.

They said the shell — fired from an unknown direction — struck the SOS orphanage in Kfar Falous in the Jizzine area, officially outside Israel's south Lebanon occupation zone but under the control of the pro-Israeli South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia.

Hasna Mohammad Katanah was wounded in the attack.

Also on Sunday a Lebanese woman and her two children were wounded when Katyusha rockets apparently fired by Islamist guerrillas landed in the Israeli-occupied buffer zone in south Lebanon, Israeli military sources said.

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of choice of Hizbollah, landed in the village of Safra, near Jezzine in the northeast of the buffer zone, the sources said.

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Iraqi minister accuses U.S. of costing Jordan contracts

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A senior Iraqi official Sunday lashed out at the United States and accused it of being responsible for United Nations' refusal to approve several Jordanian contracts to supply Iraq with humanitarian goods in accordance with the oil-for-food deal.

"Jordan was ranked second among the countries that won contracts with Iraq," said Iraq's Trade Minister Mohammed Mahdi Saleh, but "for political reasons, the U.S. refused to approve several contracts by Jordanian firms, mainly in the food-stuffs sector."

"Because of the American pressure... Jordan has lost many contracts," Dr. Saleh said to reporters following a meeting with Minister of Trade, Industry and Supply Hani Mulki and a large group of Jordanian exporters at the Jordan Exports Promotion Corporation (JEPIC).

"Why did they (U.S.) prevent Jordan from exporting flour and cooking oil to Iraq while they have approved others offering the same price and quality?" the minister asked.

"The delivery of medicine and food for Iraq was delayed because of the American pressure. Iraq lost 25 per cent of the contracts it signed with other countries, which have not approved," Dr. Saleh added.

According to the oil-for-food agreement, which Iraq signed with the U.N. on December, Baghdad was allowed to export \$2 billion of oil in exchange of humanitarian supplies every six months.

Jordanian firms won \$120 million worth of goods, consisting mainly of food, medicine and detergents, but half of this amount of contracts was approved.

Last month, the world body renewed the agreement with Iraq for another six months.

Dr. Saleh said that Iraq wants to increase the trade protocol with Jordan, which stands at \$255 million annually.

"We will not ask our Jordanian brethren to do what they cannot do... but there is an Iraqi desire to speed up trade cooperation between the two countries and increase (the protocol) to what it was in 1994," he said.

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Despite Ross talks, Netanyahu vows to maintain hardline against Palestinians

Combined agency dispatches

U.S. MIDDLE East envoy Dennis Ross quickly ran into trouble Sunday as he met Israeli and Palestinian leaders in a new initiative to rescue a peace process battered by months of crises and extremist violence.

Even though Palestinian, Israeli and U.S. security officials agreed to hold a trilateral meeting Sunday night to discuss renewal of cooperation in the battle against Islamists, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu didn't seem to have budged in position in an interview with CNN after his talks with Mr. Ross, instead he vowed to maintain a tough stance against the Palestinians to "force them to fight terrorism."

In the television interview, the right-wing premier again likened the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) to "terrorism-supporting" states such as Iran and Iraq and said Israel had evidence that organisations in the Palestinian areas were behind the July 30 Jerusalem bombing.

"The evidence we have right now is not yet conclusive but points directly to the assistance of terror organisations based in the Palestinian territories," he told CNN.

"We still lack the identity of the perpetrators but we have little doubt that organisations such as Hamas, and that is the chief suspect, was behind the recent attack," Mr. Netanyahu said.

He said during his talks with the U.S. envoy that Mr. Ross "made it patently clear he would not discuss political matters with the Palestinians until they assured him they would fight terrorism."

"The Palestinian [National] Authority must make a choice, it must decide what type of regime it intends to be — a regime that fights terrorism the way that Jordan and Egypt (fight it) or a regime that abets terrorism or supports terrorism like Iran or Iraq."

Mr. Netanyahu also denied that the sanctions slapped on the Palestinian areas since the Jerusalem bombing, including restrictions on movement of people and goods and refusal to pay tax revenue to the PNA, were causing hardship.

"The whole idea we are starving the population is baloney, it's just hogwash. There is no starvation, there is no hunger, there is no shortage because we make sure that the medicines and the goods, the food reaches the Palestinian areas," he

claimed.

Earlier Palestinian sources said that Palestinian President Yasser Arafat agreed to resume high-level security contacts with Israel, on the condition U.S. officials were also present.

Mr. Arafat said after his meeting with the U.S. envoy "we assured Mr. Ross that we are concerned about the security coordination, but in the presence of the Americans, because we want them there as witnesses."

Prior to meeting with Mr. Ross, Mr. Arafat had insisted he was making a "100 per cent effort" to battle terrorism.

Israel, which has made a resumption of security cooperation the top condition for lifting harsh sanctions against the Palestinians, agreed to the three-way formula, the sources said.

The exact timing and venue of the meeting were not immediately given.

Palestinian officials brided at the U.S. mediator's insistence following talks in the morning with Mr. Netanyahu that Israel's security concerns must be addressed as a top priority.

Mr. Ross said, "there is an essential security underpinning to the [peace] process and that security underpinning has to be put back in place," arguing that his top priority would be convince-

ing Palestinians to resume cooperation with Israel in the fight against terrorism.

"We will tell Ross that he can't tell the Palestinians to focus just on one point, security," countered Palestinian Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo as the U.S. envoy went into a later meeting with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat in the West Bank town of Ramallah.

Palestinian spokesman Marwan Kanafani told reporters that Mr. Arafat reiterated his claim to Mr. Ross Sunday during a 45-minute rundown on the "difficulties facing the Palestinian people because of the blockade and settlements, which are the main danger for the peace process."

"Arafat told Mr. Ross that the main question is, 'does Netanyahu really want peace?' if the answer is yes, there will be a way to find a solution," he said.

Mr. Kanafani said Mr. Ross acknowledged the tough situation and suggested such political issues would be addressed when Secretary of State Madeleine Albright makes her first official visit to the region at the end of the month.

"Ross said there would be an American initiative and described his mission as a vanguard to create the secu-

ity basis for the coming visit by Albright," Mr. Kanafani said.

Ms. Albright said last week that her visit would seek to launch accelerated political negotiations on so-called "final status" issues, notably the status and final borders of the Palestinian territory, the fate of Jewish settlements and the future of Jerusalem.

Israel, meanwhile, eased the blockade slightly Sunday, lifting a curfew on three Palestinian-ruled towns in the West Bank. But three other towns remained under full military blockade, Palestinians were still barred from entering Israel and Mr. Netanyahu maintained a freeze on the transfer of tax funds owed to the Palestinian (National) Authority.

About 100 Palestinians protested the crackdown Sunday at the closed Erez Crossing from the Gaza Strip into Israel, with one speaker warning, "we are ready for an uprising if Mr. Netanyahu continues his policies."

In another development, the Jordanian authorities announced that Mr. Netanyahu would meet with King Hussein in Jordan Wednesday as part of the broader diplomatic effort to save the peace process.

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40 Algerians die in rebel attacks — press

PARIS (R) — Suspected Islamist rebels killed 40 people, including five-month-old twin babies, in the latest attacks on civilians in Algeria, Algerian newspapers said Sunday.

Twenty-one villagers were killed by having their throats cut overnight Thursday-Friday when suspected rebels stormed Tabouza hamlet in Medea province, 70 kilometres south of Algiers, said Liberte and Al Khabar dailies.

Among the dead were five-month-old twin babies, four women and three elderly men, they said.

A homemade bomb exploded near a mosque crowded with faithful shortly before Muslim Friday mass prayers killing 10 people and wounding 20 in Djelfa, 230 kilometres south of Algiers, Al Watan newspaper said.

Al Khabar and Liberte put the death toll from the bomb at between seven and 11.

The newspapers said the bomb went off in a playground near the mosque in

a neighbourhood named after President Mohammed Boudiaf, who was assassinated by a government security officer in June 1992.

Suspected guerrillas slashed the throats of eight civilians, including five women overnight Thursday-Friday in Sidi Bakhti hamlet in Tiarret province, 220 kilometres east of Algiers, Al Khabar said.

The rebels flogged a man in the same village a night later and then cut his throat, the daily said without giving further details.

The same night, suspected rebels set ablaze a bakery in Imssouhal village in Tizi-Ouzou province, 90 kilometres east of Algiers, and stole the baker's car, it added.

Al Khabar said the arson was to punish the owner for his refusal to pay money in a "protection racket" run by rebels in the area.

The killings, the latest in a series of massacres of villagers and other attacks, brought to more than 700 the number of civilians killed in the past

two months in rebel attacks.

Algerian leaders after keeping silent on the violence vowed last week to pursue "implacably" the government's struggle to wipe out the guerrillas.

Government forces, meanwhile, killed 18 rebels in Haouch Miller area near Larba, 25 kilometres south of Algiers in the past 48 hours, said Al Khabar. The rebel dead brought to 29 the number shot in the area in a continuing military offensive.

Troops killed more than 300 rebels in a massive offensive in Blida province in July, according to Algerian reports.

Newspaper commentators said the rebels stepped up their massacres of villagers in remote hamlets to avenge their dead and boost the guerrillas' morale after the offensive.

About 60,000 people have died in Algeria's violence since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.



FISTS IN THE AIR: Hizbollah supporters raising fists and chanting 'Death to America' Sunday in the eastern town of Baalbek at the funeral procession of a guerrilla killed in an Israeli air raid on a Hizbollah training camp in Janta in eastern Lebanon a day earlier. Fourteen Lebanese — including six Hizbollah guerrillas, seven civilians and a pro-Israeli militiaman — were killed in south Lebanon this week. An Israeli soldier was killed and another wounded in a Hizbollah attack on Sunday (See story on page 1) (Reuters photo)

Bahraini crown prince holds military talks in Saudi Arabia

MANAMA (AFP) — Bahrain's crown prince, Sheikh Hamad Bin Issa Al Khalifa, has held talks in Saudi Arabia on military cooperation, newspapers reported Sunday.

Sheikh Hamad, who commands the armed forces, made a brief visit Saturday to eastern Saudi Arabia across the Causeway from Bahrain to meet Defence Minister Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz.

The crown prince told Bahraini newspapers they discussed plans "to boost cooperation in defence between the armed forces of the two countries."

"We consider the Bahraini defence force as a complement to the Saudi forces, in the framework of the strategy of joint defence of the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)," he said. The GCC also groups Kuwait, Oman,

Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

Bahrain has since December 1994 been gripped by unrest which has cost at least 37 lives. The mainly Shiite Muslim opposition demands the restoration of parliament which was dissolved in 1975 and the release of political prisoners.

Saudi Arabia has offered to help its small neighbour to restore order.

Israeli military prisoners release their own jailers

TEL AVIV (AP) — A mutiny at an Israeli military jail ended Sunday when prisoners released three guards whom they had taken hostage and returned to their cells, the army spokesman said.

Military police and special anti-terrorist troops were standing by, but the mutiny ended "without injuries and without use of force," the spokesman said in a press release.

The jail, prison six, is near Adit in northern Israel.

The prisoners, all Israeli soldiers, seized nine guards Saturday, but released six of them in the course of the negotiations.

The prisoners accused guards of beating and humiliating them.

The leaders of the revolt were all serving long terms for serious crimes such as homicide, rape and drug peddling, a senior army officer said.

The prisoners demanded improved conditions and a written guarantee

that those who took part in the seizure of the hostages would not be punished.

However, the army's chief of personnel, Major General Gideon Sheffer, said the prisoners' main demand was that they should not be transferred to a civilian prison.

"This says everything about the conditions in the military prison," he said. "They know they will be well treated here."

The army's policy is to transfer prisoners serving long terms for non-military offences to civilian jails.

Nevertheless, it agreed in writing not to transfer the mutineers, Gen. Sheffer said, because "there were knives at the throats of the guards." He said the army is not bound to honour the agreement, and "they will be treated to the full extent of the law."

A committee of inquiry has been set up to investigate the causes of the mutiny.

Turkey detains over 800 on way to Greece illegally

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkish authorities have detained 801 people, mainly Iraqis, trying to enter neighbouring Greece illegally in the last two weeks, the Anatolian News Agency (ANA) reported Sunday.

The illegal immigrants, including 602 Iraqis and scores of Syrians, Bangladeshis and Africans, have been detained in the northwestern border province of Edirne, 200 kilometres west of Istanbul, the ANA said.

They were understood to have been seeking asylum in Greece or western Europe mainly to flee economic hardships in their home countries, it said. In recent years, thousands of people fleeing mainly Iraq and developing Asian states, have been using Turkey as a intermediate country to infiltrate into Greece.

Apart from the land border between Turkey and Greece, the immigrants are also using Turkish ports to gain access to Greek islands in the Aegean Sea with boats, a method which sometimes results in disasters.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran to introduce stricter drug trafficking laws

TEHRAN (R) — Iran plans to introduce tough legislation calling for stiffer punishment for drug smugglers, Iranian newspapers reported Sunday. The decision was made at a meeting of Iran's expedient council Saturday chaired by former President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and attended by President Mohammad Khatami. "Mr. Rafsanjani underlined that the punishment of drug traffickers is to be made more severe in the near future," the Tehran Times newspaper reported. The papers did not give details of the new penalties. Iran's judiciary and police force had sent a letter to supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei calling for harsher treatment of offenders, the papers reported. Iran is a key transit route for drugs, mostly opium from which heroin is made, being smuggled to Europe via Turkey from Afghanistan and Pakistan — the so-called "golden crescent." More than 1,000 people have been executed in Iran since a 1989 law took effect imposing the death penalty for possession of five kilograms of opium or 30 grammes of heroin.

Bomb in tourist district slightly injures three

ISTANBUL (AP) — A bomb planted in a trash can in Istanbul's tourist district injured three people Sunday, the Anatolia News Agency (ANA) said. Among them was a 36-year-old Canadian tourist, who was treated for minor cuts, it said. A Turkish University student and a 12-year-old child also sustained minor injuries. There was no claim of responsibility for the bombing in Sultanahmet district, home of historic sites such as the Blue Mosque, Saint Sophia and Topkapi Palace. Police told ANA they were looking for two people who fled the scene in a car shortly before the explosion.

Another Australian victim of Israeli bridge collapse dies

TEL AVIV (AP) — A fourth victim of the collapse of a bridge at the opening of the Maccabiah Jewish Olympics last month died Sunday, a hospital official said. Worin Zeins, 56, died at the intensive care unit of Sheba Hospital near Tel Aviv. Cause of death was not immediately given. Two people died and 80 were injured July 14 when a bridge collapsed as the Australian delegation was crossing it to enter the Ramat-Gan Stadium for the opening ceremony of the 15th Maccabiah Games. A third died later in hospital of complications caused by the polluted water of the Yarkon River.

Iran allocates \$5.4 million to quake victims

TEHRAN (R) — Iran has allocated \$5.4 million for the reconstruction of quake-stricken parts of the eastern region of Birjand, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Sunday. Mohammad Moradian, head of Birjand Housing Foundation, was quoted as saying the money would be paid in two instalments to 1,520 families living in 18 villages in the area. Birjand was hit by a force 7.1 earthquake in May that killed 1,560 people, injured 2,600 and levelled 168 villages. So far 1,030 families had received loans to rebuild their ruined houses, Mr. Moradian said. He said more than 7,000 houses in 94 villages were destroyed in the earthquake and 2,750 of them were expected to be rebuilt by the end of the current Iranian year next March.

Sudanese lawmakers get year's salary up front — Report

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Lawmakers in one of Sudan's state legislative councils have been paid 12 months' salary in advance while schoolteachers have not seen a paycheck in three months, the Al Shareef Al Syasi newspaper reported Sunday. Quoting an informed source, the paper said each deputy in the legislative council of the state, which it did not name, had received about \$2,000 in salary payments for the coming 12 months. The money was reportedly borrowed from a commercial bank with a guarantee from the state government. "While workers and employees of the state are suffering pay delays," the paper said. Schoolteachers in the state are owed three months' worth of back pay, the source said.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:10 Cartoons
15:00 Gillette Sports Special
15:30 Deep Water Haven
16:00 Animal Show
16:30 Ocean Girl
17:15 French Programmes
19:00 News in French
19:30 News Headline
19:35 Neighbours
20:00 Comedy — Murphy
20:30 Babylon 5
21:10 Highlander
22:00 News in English
22:35 Emergency Room
23:15 Homicide

PRAYER TIMES

04:26 Fajr
05:52 (Sunrise) Duha
12:41 Dhuhr
16:21 'Asr
19:30 Maghreb
20:55 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweith, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.

JORDANIAN CHURCHES

Tel. 622366

Anglican Church Tel. 622366

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 5516245

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

A slight drop in temperature will take place with temperatures 2-3 degrees below their seasonal average. In Aqaba it will be hot, winds northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp. Amman.....30/30

Agaba.....26/39

Deserts.....18/24

Jordan Valley.....25/38

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 31, Aqaba 41 Humidity readings: Amman 35 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Mukhlis Mazharab820425

Dr. Wisam Hasyrin748563

Dr. Muthair Al Khatib839868

Dr. Abdul Hadi Tayyir620115

Firas pharmacy661912

Ferdows pharmacy778336

Al Asema pharmacy637055

Nairook pharmacy623672

Al Salam pharmacy636730

Yacoub pharmacy644945

Shmeisani pharmacy637660

Najib pharmacy847632

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Firas pharmacy661912

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Al Asema pharmacy637055

Nairook pharmacy623672

Al Salam pharmacy636730

Yacoub pharmacy644945

Shmeisani pharmacy637660

Najib pharmacy847632

IRBID: Dr. Ahmad Qanu281484

Dr. Quds pharmacy(—)

ZARQA: Dr. Ziyad Jghaitim992991

Khalifeh pharmacy985417

AMMAN: Luzmila630195

HOSPITALS

Hussein Medical Centre81381332

Khalidi Maternity6442816

Akileh Maternity6424412

Jabal Amman Maternity642362

Malhas, J. Amman636140

Palestine, Shmeisani607071

Shmeisani Hospital669131

University Hospital845845

Al-Muasher Hospital6672279

The Islamic, Abdali66412637

Al-Ahli, Abdali66416446

Italian, Al-Muhajreen7771013

Al-Bashir77511126

Army, Marka89161115

Queen Alia Hospital60224050

Amal Hospital674155

The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery865199

ZARQA: Govt. Hospital(09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital(09)900560

Ibn Sina Hospital(09)986732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital(09)990990

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre637111

Civil Defence Department661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue630341

Civil Defence Emergency199

Rescue Police192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade617101

Blood Bank775121

Highway Police843402

Traffic Police896390

Public Security Dept630321

Hotel Complaints605800

Price Complaints661176

Water & Sewage Complaints897467

Amman Municipality Complaints787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance)121

Overseas Calls010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs623101

Abdali Tel. Repairs661101

Jordan Television773111

Radio Jordan774111

Water Authority680100

J. Electricity Authority815615

Electric Power Co.636381

RJ Flight Information08-53200

Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

HUSSEIN MEDICAL CENTRE81381332

Khalidi Maternity6442816

Akileh Maternity6424412

Jabal Amman Maternity642362

Malhas, J. Amman636140

Palestine, Shmeisani607071

Shmeisani Hospital669131

University Hospital845845

Al-Muasher Hospital6672279

The Islamic, Abdali66412637

Al-Ahli, Abdali66416446

Italian, Al-Muhajreen7771013

Al-Bashir77511126

Army, Marka89161115

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified. Information on other flights can be supplied on phone 08 (52700).

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

08:05 Damascus (RJ)

08:45 Sanaa (RJ)

09:30 Jeddah (RJ)

09:45 New Delhi (RJ)

10:20 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

10:25 Beirut (RJ)

14:00 Tunis (add) (RJ)

15:25 Kuwait (RJ)

17:15 Cairo (RJ)

17:25 Milan (RJ)

17:30 London (RJ)

19:00 Bangkok (RJ)

19:30 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)

22:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

04:10 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

Other Flights

13:45 Khartoum (SD)

13:45 Khartoum (SD)

13:45 Khartoum (SD)

13:45 Khartoum (SD)

13:45 Khartoum (SD)

13:45 Khartoum (SD)

13:45 Khartoum (SD)

13:45 Khartoum



HRH Prince Ali Ben Al Hussein Sunday donates blood during a special campaign, organised by the West Amman Rotary Club in cooperation with the National Blood Bank and the Ministry of Health and Medical Care. The campaign aims at encouraging people to donate blood to help save lives (Petra photo)

Fourth term of archaeological excavations completed at Saad

IRBID (Petra) — A Faculty of Anthropology and Antiquities team, from Yarmouk University, working in conjunction with a team from the University of Arkansas, has completed a fourth term of archaeological excavations at the ancient site of Saad in the Mafraq Governorate.

A university statement Sunday maintained that the fourth term digs aimed at unearthing the greatest number of human skeletons from cemeteries which date back to later eras of Roman rule.

The teams are seeking

to study social patterns of the Romans in that area, the diseases from which they suffered, economic activities and the crops they cultivated, according to Dean of the Faculty of Anthropology and Antiquities Mahmoud Najjar.

Excavators have found more than 50 skeletons as well as a collection of jewellery, lanterns and coloured glass flasks in the fourth term, he added.

According to Dr. Najjar, the initial studies of these artefacts indicate the presence of different types of graves: orderly

graves for the higher classes and randomly scattered graves for the poor.

He also affirmed that the artefacts demonstrated that these settlers enjoyed good health and consumed nutritious food.

According to Dr. Najjar, digs in the previous three terms at the same site revealed a mosque and church, both constructed in the Islamic Umayyad era, along with a grape press, several graves and skeletons.

Faculty perfects techniques for environmentally safe animal feed

By Nadia Mukhlis
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The University of Jordan's Faculty of Agriculture is in the process of developing new techniques to produce animal feed from waste products, in order to reduce cost while safeguarding the environment.

A tonne of soybeans costs JD 300, and the Kingdom's need for the product can be reduced through using the remnants of local products.

"[The residue of these products] can cause environment pollution if left untreated, [and simultaneously] we can reduce the volume of imports," according to food biotechnology specialist Malik Haddadin.

These new techniques include the production of animal feed from olives and tomato pomace, the bioconversion of olives into ethanol and citric acid, the production of ethanol and citric acids from whey, the reduction of cholesterol in eggs, and the use of algae for water purification, Dean of the University of Jordan's Faculty of Agriculture Bassam Snobar explained.

Scientific experimentation began in 1989 with a project entitled "Biotechnological applications for the development of agriculture in Jordan," supported by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) in cooperation with McGill University in Canada.

The project was initiated by the Faculty of Agriculture and is to be completed by the end of this year, Dr. Snobar said.

The project included research conducted by scientists and students at the faculty, he explained.

According to Dr. Haddadin, the greatest achievements heretofore accomplished have been the reduction of the cholesterol levels in eggs through the addition of dietary adjuncts such as lactic acidophilus to poultry feed, the modification of olive pomace into high protein animal feed and the transformation of dairy waste products into other forms of useful output.

Jordan suffers from animal feed shortages and the commonly used soybean incurs high costs, he added.

Olive pomace, of which an annual 40,000 tonnes is discarded, and tomato

tomato, dumped by tomato paste factories, all cause environmental pollution, Dr. Haddadin maintained.

"We have transformed the olive pomace into a high protein poultry feed," he stated. "The results have been very encouraging both in terms of the birds' growth and the economic value."

"Agricultural industries must promote societal benefits and decrease any negative environmental impact to finally reduce imports [used] for animal feed," Dr. Haddadin affirmed.

Up to 50 per cent of the soybean consumption in the Kingdom has been replaced by the new product as a first step towards a total substitution at a later date, stated Shakib Abdul Rahim, a specialist in poultry science at the Faculty of Agriculture.

Laboratory tests are still underway before [total substitution can be achieved], Dr. Abdul Rahim maintained.

The project's second stage will be the prevention of poultry infections such as Salmonella or Escherichia Coli, he added.

Factory waste can also be used in the production of costly industrial chemicals, such as acetic acids and purified alcohol, Dr. Abdul Rahim said.

Purified alcohol used for medical purposes can cost up to JD 900 per tonne, while the same amount of olive pomace is acquired for JD 10, Dr. Haddadin explained.

He affirmed that such methods are commonly used in those Mediterranean countries renowned for their prodigious olive cultivation.

A pilot blueprint for a factory specialised in transforming agricultural waste will be built before that of a larger factory intended for trade purposes, according to Dr. Haddadin.

Studies are underway to produce a specific kind of algae for wastewater purification, which, after fermentation, can later be used as poultry feed, he stated.

"This will solve major problems such as cleaning wastewater, reducing environmental pollution and producing high-protein animal feed," Dr. Haddadin concluded. "Subsequent to the addition of local biological products, animal feed can be produced at a lesser cost."

'Government will not impede dialogue with political groups'

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government will not impede dialogue with the Kingdom's various political groups, and will take every possible step to ensure fair and free elections, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali announced Sunday.

Emerging from a special Cabinet session, convened at the Ministry of Interior to review arrangements for the upcoming parliamentary elections, Dr. Majali affirmed that he was briefed by Minister of Interior Nathir Rashid, as well as various governors, on voter registration procedures as well as other relevant issues.

He reported the government's satisfaction with achievements heretofore achieved.

"[Today's] briefing revealed that the [electoral] process is sound and continuing as planned," Dr. Majali asserted. "And we have directed local governors to pursue the registration process."

"We have explained to local governors that the government represents all Jordanians and does not favour one party over another as it does not support one political group at the expense of another," he maintained. "The government is open to all and encourages all eligible Jordanians to vote in the upcoming elections and urges all persons, who are eligible to run for office, to not hesitate to do so, thereby helping to fulfil their respective community's needs."

"The registration process is progressing very well, and there have been no objections reported on the part of any group," the prime minister stated. "In fact, the number of persons registering to vote has exceeded all expectations."

The Ministry of Interior has also



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Minister of Interior Nathir Rashid discuss developments of this year's general elections, scheduled for Nov. 4 (Petra photo)

been handling those voters wishing to register in a new constituency.

Recent figures state that nearly 10,000 persons have registered in constituencies different from those in which they had registered for the previous elections.

"The government is available for dialogue with all political parties regardless of their intention to boycott the elections," Dr. Majali confirmed. "We are willing to dialogue with any group."

"Both the opposition and the government are constituted of members of the Jordanian society and, therefore, we do not conflict with each other as we all work for higher national interests," he stated. "As we do not conceal any-

thing, neither do we accept any conditions dictated by others and nor do we impose them."

"Various factions have been registering for the elections and this [occurrence] is cause for delight as it serves as an indicator that the majority [of the population] will participate in the elections," Dr. Majali remarked.

During the meeting, Mr. Rashid submitted a briefing to the prime minister and Cabinet ministers regarding registration procedures as well as measures undertaken to ensure fair and free elections.

Mr. Rashid reported that the Ministry of Interior has formed an information committee to promote public awareness regarding the importance of elections in democ-

cratic systems.

Aug. 16 is the deadline for voter registration for those citizens who have not registered in the previous elections, or citizens who have reached the participatory age of 19, he said.

A total of 146,256 citizens have heretofore registered raising the total number of eligible voters to 1,737,234, Mr. Rashid stated.

The Ministry of Interior has prepared 1,334 polling booths with a combined total of 3,663 ballot boxes, and has assigned the task of tallying the votes to 1,065 committees, he said.

This is an increase over the 746 committees entrusted with the same task during the 1993 elections, according to the minister.

Opposition censures government for dialogue standstill

AMMAN (J.T.) — Five opposition parties, which have declared their intention to boycott the upcoming parliamentary elections, Sunday censured the government for failing to dialogue with political groups previous to the upcoming elections, scheduled for Nov. 4.

A statement issued by the Islamic Action Front, the Jordan Arab Constitutional Front, the National Action Front, the Jordan People's Democratic Party (Hashd) and Al Ansar stated that a joint meeting was convened "in order to... endorse necessary steps... for the elections boycott and approve methods for the presentation of views to the Jordanian public."

According to the statement, these five parties are "currently preparing a national plan of action tackling the socio-political and democratic aspects of their position in regards to guaranteeing democratic parliamentary representation, the separation and independence of [the judicial, legislative and the executive branches], halting intimidation on the part of the executive authority against political parties, while also ceasing any encroachment on public freedoms and citizens' rights."

The five parties have decided to organise seminars in their respective headquarters to justify their stands to the public "in light of the political crisis presently facing the country," the statement said.

Al Mustakbal has also declared

Party submits 'confidence-building' electoral proposals

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party (JDPUP) Sunday discussed proposals which, it said, might build confidence between the government and opposition parties, as well as create a positive climate for the upcoming general elections.

In a statement published by Al Ra'i Arabic daily, JDPUP Secretary General Musa Maaita described his party's proposals as including consensus-building to ensure majority participation in fair and free elections.

The government can declare its commitment to reach political groups as well as announce a proper mechanism for introducing an alternate modern elections law subsequent to the [November] elections, he asserted.

Mr. Maaita's party belongs to the opposition bloc, however, has not declared a boycott of the 1997

elections.

The JDPUP presented the following proposals:

- That the government suspend implementation of the Press and Publications Law until its endorsement by the next Parliament.

- That a judiciary commission supervise elections as well as a campaign organised to urge widespread electoral participation.

- That the government play a neutral role in the elections process.

- That the media track electoral progress, despite a lack of television time for candidates to present their platforms to the public.

- That the government permit candidates to organise rallies and public seminars in open fields and indoor facilities, including professional union headquarters, to delineate their respective programmes.

its intention to boycott the November parliamentary elections, but did not attend the Sunday meeting.

On July 28, the 11 opposition parties convened but failed to take a final decision regarding a collective boycott of the upcoming elections as five were in favour and six

opposed to the proposition.

However, all opposition parties have stated their opposition to the one-person, one-vote system as well as temporary laws, which the government has a right to enact without prior parliamentary approval.

Meanwhile, six opposition parties Sunday linked their participation in the forthcoming parliamentary elections to the government's response to nine conditions.

The Popular Unity Party, the Communist Party, the Jordanian Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party, Al Arab Ba'ath Progressive Party, Al Haq Party and the Arab Land Party stated that participation in the general elections constitutes the basis of the democratic process dependant on guarantees of electoral integrity.

Secretary General of Al Haq Mohammad Zu'bi maintained that his party would boycott elections, although it did not officially announce such position in order to safeguard opposition unity.

Mr. Zu'bi asserted that he would meet with the general overseer of the Muslim Brotherhood Tuesday in a bid to reach common ground regarding the electoral boycott.

Fouad Dabbour, spokesman for the Arab Ba'ath Progressive Party, reported his party's belief in dialogue provided that conditions submitted to the government are met.

The Arab Ba'ath Progressive Party will announce its final decision also based on the government's response.

The National Constitutional Party Sunday confirmed its participation in the upcoming elections, according to its secretary general, Abdul Hadi Majali.

NEWS IN BRIEF

King sends condolence cable

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday sent a cable to Qatari leader Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, expressing his sympathy and heartfelt condolences over the death of Sheikh Abdul Aziz Ben Suheim Al Thani.

King Hussein Bridge opened

AMMAN (Petra) — The King Hussein Bridge was yesterday opened for traffic to the West Bank. However, the bridge will remain closed for traffic to Gaza. The bridge was closed less than two weeks ago following two suicide bombs in west Jerusalem.

40,600 tonnes of produce exported

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan last month exported 40,600 tonnes of fruit and vegetables, worth JD 6.95 million, according to Agricultural Marketing Corporation (AMC) sources. According to the sources, 46.5 per cent of the exports were received by the United Arab Emirates (UAE), followed by Kuwait with 24.8 per cent, Qatar with 13.6 per cent and Bahrain with 12.7 per cent. Tomatoes topped the exports, with 19,410 tonnes shipped, followed by 5,956 tonnes of watermelons, and 2,692 tonnes of cucumbers.

Jordan, Egypt sign agreement

CAIRO (Petra) — Jordan and Egypt Sunday signed an agreement of scientific and technical cooperation. The agreement stipulates that both sides will

exchange expertise and technical information. They are also to undertake applied research in scientific and technical fields. The two countries also agreed to set up joint projects, including the manufacturing of spare parts and high quality phosphoric acid, while preparing joint projects to prevent corrosion in industrial and mineral installations and water networks. The agreement was signed by Royal Scientific Society President Said Alloush as well as Egyptian President of Non-Precious Metal Research and Development Adel Nofal.

Water exhibition opened

AMMAN (Petra) — To mark His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the Throne, Minister of Water and Irrigation Munther Haddadin Sunday inaugurated a poster exhibition, entitled "Water and Life," organised by the Water Authority of Jordan in cooperation with the Applied Sciences University. The five-day exhibition, held at the Royal Cultural Centre, will include 58 posters outlining the water shortage in Jordan and suggested resolutions thereto.

Intellectual figure of 1997 named

AMMAN (Petra) — The Union of Jordanian Publishers Sunday named President of the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (AL al Bait Foundation) Nasser Adin Assad as the leading intellectual figure for 1997 in appreciation of his intellectual contributions to Arabic culture. Dr. Assad's publications and books will be displayed at a special

pavilion in the Seventh International Book Exhibition, to be held at the Amman International Automobile Exhibition from Oct. 23 to Nov. 1.

Yugoslav Airways opens flight

AMMAN (Petra) — A Yugoslav Airways plane Sunday landed at Queen Alia International Airport, heralding the resumption of air flights between Amman and Belgrade. Earlier this year, Yugoslav Airways signed an agreement with the Civil Aviation Authority (ICAA) and Royal Jordanian (RJ) to operate a weekly flight to Amman. RJ is currently studying the possibility of operating a weekly flight to Belgrade.

Palestinians leave for Mecca

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 2,150 Palestinians from the occupied territories in Palestine Sunday left for Saudi Arabia to perform the lesser pilgrimage to Mecca and visit the Prophet's tomb in Medina.

Turks visit Jordanian university

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Turkish delegation, comprising teachers of Arabic and Islamic studies at Turkish universities, Sunday visited the University of Jordan where they met with Dean of the Faculty of Sharia' (Islamic law) Mahmoud Sartawi, who briefed them on the faculty's role in student education. The delegation also toured the campus and educational facilities therein.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITION

* Photography exhibition by Claudia Pedotti at the Jordan Arts and Crafts Centre/Artisana, Jabal Amman, Second Circle (Tel. 647858) until Aug. 16.

Fighting flares in Tajikistan capital; president seeks help

DUSHANBE (R) — Small arms fire was heard in the Tajik capital Dushanbe Sunday, a day after fighting erupted between two rival armed bands and caused dozens of casualties.

Russian military sources said President Imomali Rakhmonov was planning to ask Russian-led peacekeeping troops from the Commonwealth of Independent States in Dushanbe to take over the city's security.

The peacekeepers' mandate ran out on July 30 but leaders of the 12-nation CIS grouping of ex-Soviet countries have a verbal agreement to keep their forces in Tajikistan to help it emerge from a civil war which ended in a peace deal last June.

Parts of the north of the capital where there was fighting on Saturday were quiet but witnesses said firing could be heard further out from the centre early

Sunday.

Saturday's fighting sent residents fleeing and Russia's NTV said five people had been killed and 12 injured.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said it gave a Dushanbe hospital medicines to treat 40 wounded people.

A source in the presidential guard said Saturday that the guard was fighting the forces of a maverick government commander, Colonel Makhsud Khudoyberdiyev, 30 kilometers south of Dushanbe in the Fakhrobad valley and that Col. Khudoyberdiyev was trying to get to Dushanbe.

He said two of his men had been killed and three wounded in the valley and that more of Col. Khudoyberdiyev's forces were 22 kilometers west of the capital.

Col. Khudoyberdiyev, who has been twice and is seen by Western observers

as a potential coup-maker, had said he wanted Sukhrob Kasimov, a rival armed leader, to leave the capital.

He could not be reached for comment Sunday but Russia's ITAR-TASS news agency quoted him as saying he would not try to take Dushanbe and that he would follow the president's orders.

"Units of the Rapid-Response Brigade under my command have no intention of attacking Dushanbe," he told TASS by telephone.

Blasts from rocket-propelled grenades and a pall of black smoke over Dushanbe's northern district Saturday spelled the end of a truce which representatives of the CIS peacekeeping troops said they negotiated for 2.30 p.m.

A spokesman for the peacekeepers identified the commanders fighting in Dushanbe as Yakub Salimov, a tax official and a

nominal pro-government warlord, and Col. Kasimov, chief of an elite unit of Interior Ministry troops.

Col. Khudoyberdiyev, who commands an elite armoured brigade, has ambivalent relations with the government.

The Tajik government and the republic's armed Islamist opposition signed the June agreement to end a civil war which killed tens of thousands of people and displaced many more.

But Col. Khudoyberdiyev said last week the return of up to 500 armed Islamist opposition guerrillas to Dushanbe, which the accord provides for, would provoke fresh bloodshed.

A ceasefire has largely held since December but a kaleidoscopic array of armed bands threaten stability in the impoverished republic of 5.7 million which borders Afghanistan and China.



Mourners gather around the shrouded bodies of 4 of at least 6 people killed by gunmen Saturday in Khangar district of Pakistan's central province of Punjab in the latest of a wave of Muslim sectarian violence. At least 145 people have been killed in Punjab this year in attacks blamed on militants from the majority Sunni and the minority Shiite sects of Islam (Reuters photo)

Pakistan deploys extra forces in Punjab

LAHORE (AFP) — The Pakistani authorities ordered paramilitary troops deployed in Punjab province Sunday in a bid to halt sectarian violence which has left more than 40 dead in 10 days.

The provincial administration requested extra paramilitary units "to curb rising incidents of lawlessness and sectarian-related violence," according to an official statement.

Troops will move into the provincial capital of Lahore and other major cities late Sunday and take up positions at sensitive sites, guard mosques during congregations and perform night patrols, officials said.

Men were banned from riding as pillion passengers on motorcycles for at least 30 days. Most of the recent attacks have been carried out by gunmen who have opened fire while on the back of motorbikes.

Attacks Saturday, blamed on rival Shiite and Sunni Muslim sects, claimed 16 lives.

Ten Shiites were killed by six unidentified gunmen in Sheikhupura, near Lahore. Another six died in a pre-dawn attack Saturday in the village of Mondka, near Multan.

Violence has escalated in the run up to the 50th anniversary of Pakistan's independence on Aug. 14.

More than 150 people have been killed in sectarian violence this year, putting pressure on the six-month old government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. Mr. Sharif's younger brother Shahbaz Sharif is chief minister in Punjab.

The violence has worsened since the start of the month.

Nine Sunni worshippers were killed by gunmen who opened fire on a mosque in Lahore last Wednesday while three died in a bomb blast during prayers in another Sunni mosque in Multan.

Eight Shiites were killed in Shokot Friday. About a dozen doctors, lawyers and activists of Shiite and Sunni

Muslim parties have also been killed in individual attacks in the sectarian vendetta, police said.

The mounting violence is "really disturbing," said one police official who requested anonymity.

It started with tit-for-tat killings and the revenge attacks by rival sect militants. Each time a doctor was killed on one side, a doctor from the other would be targeted, the same went for lawyers and other groups.

But the pattern now appears to have become multiple murders, he said, referring to the recent gun and bomb attacks on Sunni mosques during prayers and shooting on Shiites in shops and markets.

Many people think the incidents are not just part of a sectarian vendetta, said Rana Jawad, an analyst in Lahore.

The killings are being carried out with some "sinister motive" apparently to destabilise the government in Punjab province, the most

important in Pakistan's political life, he said.

Citing Saturday's attack in Sheikhupura, he said victims included two Sunni Muslims also who were sitting in a Shiite shop.

The agriculturally rich and industrially affluent Punjab is home to about 60 per cent of the country's 135 million population.

A peaceful atmosphere in Punjab is seen as crucial for the national government as two-thirds of deputies come from the province.

Both the president and prime minister come from Punjab.

President Farooq Ahmed Leghari, was quoted by newspapers as saying Friday "a foreign hand is behind the terrorism."

Stressing the need for stronger intelligence agencies, Mr. Leghari said "unfriendly forces are taking advantage of the acts of terrorism." He did not name any country in the attack.

Photos confirm Britain's Diana has found new love

LONDON (R) — The publication of photographs showing Britain's Princess Diana in a 42-year-old film producer confirmed speculation that she has found a new love.

The fuzzy long-distance photographs of Princess Diana with Dodi Fayed, son of multi-millionaire Harrods boss Mohammed Al-Fayed, filled eight pages of the Sunday Mirror newspaper.

They showed the couple, clad only in swimming costumes, kissing and embracing and sunbathing together aboard Mr. Mohammed Al-Fayed's luxury yacht moored in the Mediterranean last week.

"Pictures that prove she has found her prince," said the Mirror's headline.

The tabloid quoted Princess Diana as telling friends that she expected her new love, who is now in Los Angeles on business for his film producing company, to

propose marriage.

"The next time I see him, I am expecting an engagement ring," it quoted her as telling friends.

The romance is reported to have begun two weeks ago when Princess Diana and her two sons holidayed with Mr. Mohammed Al-Fayed and his family in the south of France.

Tabloid newspapers said Mr. Dodi Fayed took the opportunity during that holiday to invite Princess Diana for the second, more intimate, cruise.

The photographs, taken by an Italian photographer, have been the subject of a bidding war for the past week. Paris Match is also expected to publish them.

Princess Diana, 36, has been linked with several men since her divorce from heir-to-the-throne Prince Charles last year, but she has not been seen in public with any of them.

She has complained that no man would be interested

in her because of the constant media attention she attracts.

The rumours about Princess Diana's new love have overshadowed her visit to Bosnia in her campaign for a ban on landmines.

The princess met landmine victims in the former Yugoslav Republic Saturday, the first day of her three-day visit.

The Bosnia trip followed a spate of bad press over Princess Diana's holiday in the south of France with the Al-Fayed family.

Many in the Conservative Party blame Mr. Mohammed Al-Fayed for their defeat in the May general election after his revelation to newspapers that several Conservative politicians accepted money to ask questions in parliament on his behalf.

Princess Diana's anti-landmine campaign has also fallen foul of Conservatives who say the royals should stay out of politics.

Burma daily links Aung San Suu Kyi to 'terrorism'

RANGOON (AFP) — Burma's state-run press Sunday linked opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi to acts of anarchy and terrorism and claimed she was in the pay of Western colonialists.

"Daw (Mrs.) Suu Kyi is a traitor to the nation and colonialists' cohort who believed in and applied terrorism," a commentary in the New Light of Myanmar daily said.

The long commentary also raised the issue of racial purity, saying Ms. Aung San Suu Kyi "has no desire to safeguard the race."

After marrying a Briton, "she gave birth to children who have blood of colonialists without any shame instead of the blood of the national leaders."

It compared her to "garbage" and "refuse," and said the pro-democracy movement she led from 1988 until being placed under house arrest the following year had been "overshadowed" by the influence of Washington.

In 1988, "Daw Suu Kyi was a piece of refuse drifting with the tides of anarchistic insurgency which was brought into shape like a democracy revolution," it said.

Even after her release in July 1995, she was involved in "schemes to instigate unlawful acts, incite riot and create anarchic acts."

"Though she shouted democracy, she was practically gripping anarchism and terrorism," it said.

The commentary alleged she had accepted "cash awards" for honors given by colonialists, as well as direct financial assistance.

The virulent attack suggested she had been less than grateful for leniency shown during almost six years under house arrest at her home.

She was able to see her husband and sons freely, medical care was provided at government expense and military authorities "sincerely and patiently explained" the political situation to her, the commentary said.

Unusually, the article referred to her repeatedly as Daw (Mrs.) Suu Kyi — the normal form of address for Burmese women who do not take their husbands' names. Previously, the official media had called her Mrs. Michael Aris.

The article published Sunday was part of a series. Rangoon dailies regularly carry commentaries in two or three parts.

Castro: Ex-Communist countries suffering

HAVANA (R) — Cuban President Fidel Castro said the former Communist countries of the old Soviet bloc were suffering the "trauma of disaster."

In remarks broadcast Saturday, he said the former East European Communist countries were suffering the "trauma of reaction" and a "world counter-revolution."

Mr. Castro made his comments to Cuban journalists late Friday after a meeting of international trade unions against "neo-liberalism."

Mr. Castro said he did not want to talk about the problems suffered by the former East bloc Communist countries, but added people should be aware of what it was like to return to capital-

ism.

The Cuban leader, in power since the 1959 revolution that toppled former dictator Fulgencio Batista, has defied predictions Cuba's own one-party Communist system would collapse after the island lost its main political, economic and military ally the former Soviet Union.

Mr. Castro's last public speech was April 4 and the last time Cuban state media reported him talking with journalists was May 1, which has led to speculation in some quarters that he may be ill. But the Cuban leader has been known in the past to lapse into public silence for several months at a time.

He has appeared, but not made a speech, at several events in the last few weeks, including the opening and closing of an international leftist youth festival in Havana July 28-Aug 5, and ceremonies marking the anniversary of the July 26, 1953 launch of his rebel struggle.

Mr. Castro's last public speech was April 4 and the last time Cuban state media reported him talking with journalists was May 1, which has led to speculation in some quarters that he may be ill. But the Cuban leader has been known in the past to lapse into public silence for several months at a time.

Dominican Republic hands over ETA members to Spain

MADRID (R) — The Dominican Republic Saturday expelled three members of the Basque separatist guerrilla group ETA who are wanted in Spain.

The three arrived at Torrejon Military Base near Madrid shortly before midnight (2200 GMT) aboard a Spanish air force plane, Interior Ministry sources said.

Upon arrival, they were examined by a doctor and then taken separately in camouflaged police cars under heavy security to a Madrid jail. Spanish state radio said the three would go before a high court judge Sunday for an initial hearing.

"This ends a situation which is an anomaly, an exception from the judicial and international perspective and which was completely pointless," Spain's Interior Minister Jaime Mayor Oreja said at a news conference called to announce the expulsions.

The expulsions were a coup for the Spanish government which has been pressing for increased international cooperation to fight ETA since the rebels killed Basque town councillor Miguel Angel Blanco last month. The assassination provoked national outrage.

The expelled men were identified as Eugenio Etzenbeste, Alias Antxon,

Ignacio Aracama Mendia, Alias Macario, and Jose Maria Ganchegiz.

State radio said they were key activists in ETA in the past and have lived in the Dominican Republic since 1989.

Mr. Etzenbeste was ETA's number two from 1978-1985 and headed the group's delegation to failed peace talks with the former Socialist government in Algeria in 1989.

He is accused by a Spanish High Court judge of ordering attacks in Spain from the Dominican Republic.

Congress pressures Sonia Gandhi to take over

CALCUTTA (AFP) — Sonia Gandhi, the widow of slain Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, was under renewed pressure Sunday to take over the leadership of the Congress (I) Party.

Congress leaders told the party's national convention on its final day here that the 50-year-old Italian-born Gandhi should put aside her reluctance and plunge into active politics.

"She has to lead us," said Madhavrao Scindia, a former federal minister, drawing applause from thousands of delegates. "Sonia Gandhi shares Rajiv Gandhi's vision of a new India and understands it better than many of us."

Former Minister Arjun Singh said the Congress, which keeps India's minority government in office,

would benefit immensely from her leadership.

"She should take over the leadership of the party," he said. "Millions of Congress workers are looking to her for guidance."

Priya Ranjan Dasmunshi, a vocal Congress parliamentarian from Calcutta, added, "the rank and file want her to take over the reins of leadership. She should not disappoint them."

The appeals to Mrs. Sonia Gandhi came a day after she electrified the Congress session with a five-minute speech in which she warned the party was moving away from the mass of poor Indians.

Mrs. Gandhi left Calcutta late Saturday and did not hear Sunday's speeches.

"We have lost touch with the toiling millions," Mrs.

Gandhi, a member of the Congress, India's oldest party, had said in her speech.

"The ideology of socialism, secularism and democracy is the only ideology for our great country."

"We need to unleash mass movements based on Congress ideology."

It was the first speech at a Congress meeting by Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, who married into the Gandhi-Nehru family in 1968 and now lives under tight security in New Delhi.

The mother of two has previously turned down appeals from party leaders to take over the party's leadership.

The Gandhi-Nehru family has led the Congress as well as India for almost four decades.

Earlier Saturday, Con-

gress President Sitaram Kesri told the delegates he was ready to give up leadership of the party. Mr. Kesri became the party president last year after it was voted out of power in New Delhi.

"You have been meditating for six years. Now the time has come for you to act," he said.

Mrs. Gandhi, however, did not react to Mr. Kesri's appeal in her speech.

Her popularity was evident Saturday when delegates gave her a standing ovation as she arrived at the session wearing a colourful saree, the traditional dress of Indian women.

Many Congress leaders believe Mrs. Gandhi has the charisma to woo back millions of Indians who have moved away from the Congress.

Clinton bans smoking in federal offices

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton, calling cigarette smoking the nation's most significant health problem, Saturday issued an order requiring most federal facilities to be smoke-free within one year.

Mr. Clinton, however, dropped a controversial proposal that would have stopped smokers from lighting up outside of building entrances.

"Cigarette smoking is the most single, significant public health problem facing our people today," Mr. Clinton said in his weekly radio address.

"Every year more Americans die from smoking related diseases than from AIDS, car accidents, murders, suicides and fires combined, taking a terrible human toll and putting great financial burdens on our health care system, and on business all across America," he said.

The presidential order applies to every building owned or leased by the federal government, with the exception of those used by

the federal courts or Congress.

The U.S. military and some 18 federal agencies already restrict smoking in their facilities.

"Our federal workers and the thousands of people who visit federal facilities will now be protected from the risk of second-hand smoke," Mr. Clinton said.

"Americans who have made the choice not to use tobacco products should not be put at risk by those who choose to smoke," he said.

Mr. Clinton dropped a draft proposal that would have forbidden smoking in courtyards and near the entrances of federal buildings — a move one of his aides dismissed as "too draconian."

Instead, the directive gives agency heads the option of implementing restrictions on outside smoking.

White House officials said the action was driven by concerns about the physical dangers posed from so-called secondary smoke, in which an individual inhales tobacco smoke from another person.

"Second-hand smoke isn't just unpleasant, it is a risk to the public health," said Vice-President Al Gore, who joined Mr. Clinton for the address from the Oval Office.

"Our environmental protection agency puts it in the same category as asbestos, radon, and benzene and those are some of the most dangerous of all carcinogens," Mr. Gore said.

Under the order, federal agencies and departments would be allowed to establish designated smoking areas, provided the sites are enclosed and have exhaust systems to the outside.

Agency heads, who have 12 months to fully implement the order, also were encouraged to provide programmes designed to help their workers stop smoking.

Mr. Clinton, who imposed a ban on smoking at the White House shortly after taking office, has aggressively challenged the tobacco industry and tried to curb its ability to entice young smokers.

He is expected to pass judgment in September on a landmark agreement between the tobacco industry and 40 states that would establish food and drug administration authority over nicotine products.

Mr. Clinton praised "the state attorneys general and public health advocates for providing us an extraordinary opportunity to engage in this debate" and said he planned to press an anti-smoking campaign in the fall.

In the Republican response, Senator Paul Coverdell of Georgia, complained that Mr. Clinton had blocked efforts to include in the recently signed tax bill a provision allowing up to \$2,000 a year to be placed in a tax-free savings account for a child's education.

He called Mr. Clinton's objections "a sneak attack, almost a Pearl Harbour for education reform" and urged Americans to complain to the White House.

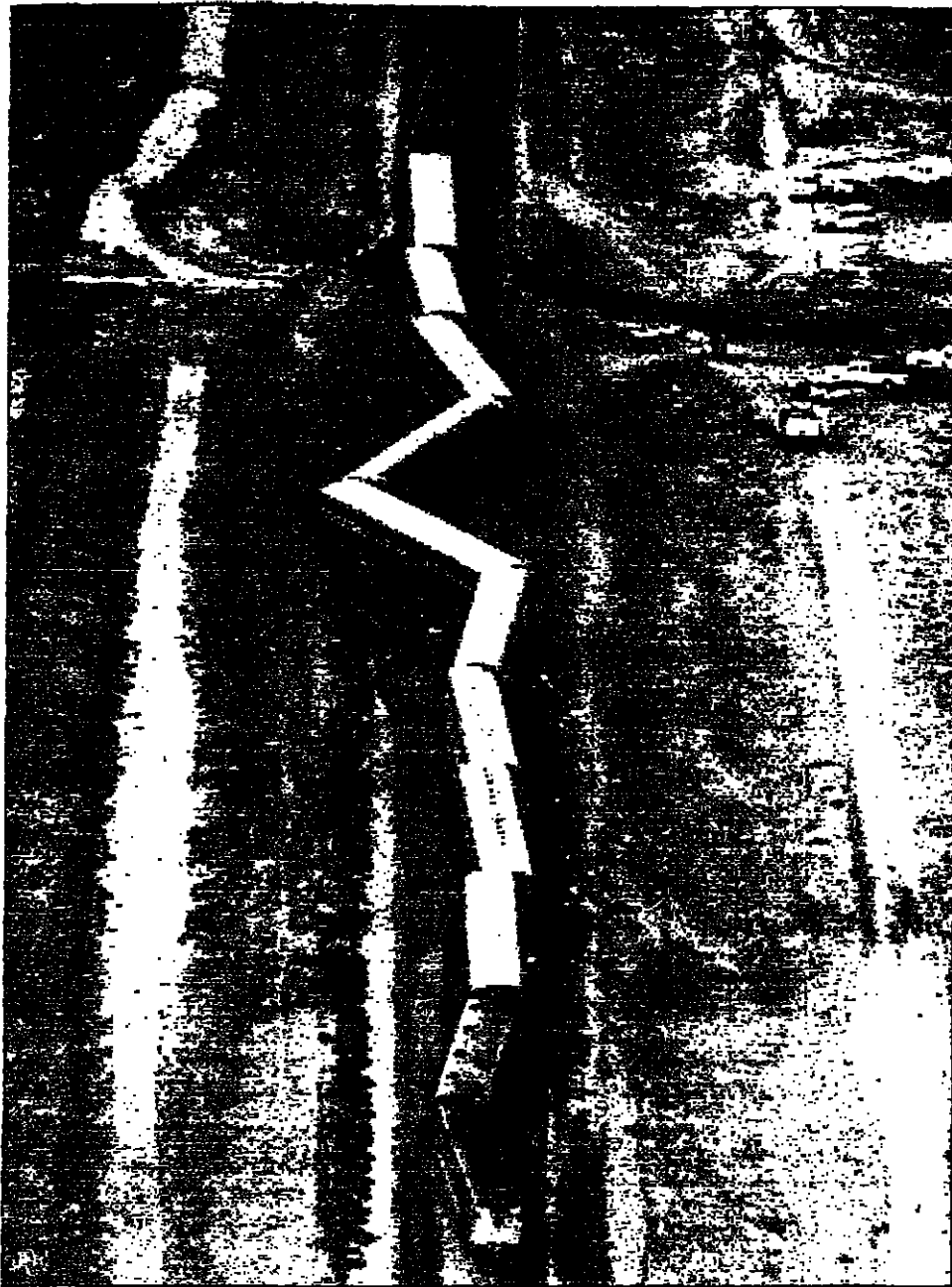
AL says pilot error

It said it was a pilot error that caused the crash of a small plane in the Pacific Ocean last week.

The plane, a Cessna 441, was flying from Los Angeles to San Francisco when it crashed into the ocean off the coast of California.

The pilot, a 47-year-old man, was the only person on board. The plane was carrying 747 carrying people was caused by

It said it was a pilot error that caused the crash of a small plane in the Pacific Ocean last week.



Several cars of an Amtrak train lie strewn after the train derailed outside Kingman, Arizona Saturday. More than 300 passengers were aboard, enroute from Los Angeles to Chicago, when it derailed, injuring about 100 people (Reuter photo)

Amtrak train derails in Arizona; 121 people hurt

KINGMAN (R) — An Amtrak passenger train carrying mostly vacationers derailed while crossing a buckled bridge in northwestern Arizona Saturday, injuring 121 passengers.

The train, Amtrak's Southwest Chief bound for Chicago, went off the Burlington northern-Sante Fe tracks about 21 kilometres east of Kingman, said Jon Poston, a State Corporation Commission spokesman. Officials said none of the 121 people hurt in the accident had life-threatening injuries. They were treated at local hospitals.

"Many of them were what we would call walking wounded," Kingman Regional Medical Centre spokesman Brian Turney said. "Their injuries are not what we would call life-threatening at this point."

Erroneous early reports from railroad dispatchers indicated at least eight people were killed in the crash, but local officials said they had searched the wreckage and found no fatalities.

Mohave County sheriff's spokeswoman Jody Schanman said a car-by-car search revealed all 301 passengers were accounted for. She said the train's manifest listed 307 passengers and 18 crew, but authorities said it was not clear if all those who had reserved a seat had boarded the train. "I basically felt a couple of jolts and I was on the

floor," one passenger told reporters. "The train was off the tracks after that."

Local authorities said the train tracks were heavily used and train traffic was backed up for several miles because of the derailment. It was unclear when the tracks would be repaired for travel.

The four-locomotive, 16-car train was travelling at 142 kilometres per hour when it struck a bridge that had been buckled by a severe storm that passed through the area earlier in the evening, officials said.

National Transportation Safety Board Chairman James Hall, speaking to reporters in Washington before leaving for Arizona with an investigative team, said that was the authorised speed for trains passing through that stretch of open desert.

Mr. Hall said all of the train cars and three of the four locomotives derailed, but all remained upright and in line.

A passenger said he knew instantly what had occurred when he woke up in a sleeping car in the rear of the train.

"I felt the brakes really go on rapidly and then bumping," he told a reporter. "I knew we were on the ground and the cars had derailed. All of the cars just about derailed off the train. None of them are on their side, but they tore the tracks up pretty good."

The train left Los Angeles

16 die as Taiwan plane crashes into hill

TAIPEI (AFP) — A Taiwanese plane crashed into a hilltop and exploded on an island near the Chinese coast Sunday killing all 16 passengers and crew, officials said.

The island of Matsu, just off the coast of China's Fujian province, is a frontline military garrison for Nationalist forces. But most of the passengers were civilians, including five members of one family.

Airport officials said the Formosa Airlines Dornier 228 ploughed into the 290-metre high Pishan Hill, about one kilometre from the island's airport.

Local government official Liu Li-Chun said the plane would have cleared the hill had it been five metres higher.

Rescuers dragged a female survivor from the burning wreckage, but she died from severe burns and multiple fractures just after arriving in hospital, a Formosa Airlines manager told a press conference.

The manager said 12 badly burned bodies had so far been retrieved.

"I saw the plane hit the top of trees and a water tower of a military unit before it crashed and exploded," Wang Su-Chien, the Matsu town chief, told Taiwanese television.

"The explosion was so loud that passengers waiting at the airport could hear it," said Mr. Liu Li-Chun.

The plane left Taipei for Matsu at 7:37 a.m. (2337 GMT Saturday). Air traffic controllers lost contact with the flight at 8:14 a.m., officials said.

Five hundred soldiers and police were mobilised in the rescue operation.

Civil Aeronautics Administration (CAA) officials said it was raining at the time, but that bad weather could not be the main cause of the accident.

They said the pilot had made one approach at the wrong height and asked to make another attempt. Tsao Yuan-Chang, the National Assembly representative for Matsu, said the pilot's miscalculation might have caused the accident. "He should have turned to the right rather than the left."

An airline statement said the pilot, Wan Tsung-Jui, a 46-year-old former air force pilot, had accumulated 5,900 flying hours.

The crash was the second in 16 months on the island. On April 5, 1996, five people were killed when a plane crashed into the sea off Matsu. The CAA blamed human error, and the pilot was sentenced to 30 months in prison.

Matsu residents have been demanding an automatic aviation guidance system at the airport. "I was very worried about flight safety every time I flew to or from Matsu," one unnamed Matsu resident told Taiwanese television.

An overhaul of the aviation system and airport facilities will cost an estimated \$7 billion Taiwan (\$243.9 million).

The Formosa Airlines manager pledged that the company would "take full responsibility for the incident," but did not specify how much compensation would be paid.

By law, relatives of each victim will receive at least 1.5 million Taiwan dollars (\$52,500).

The airport, which was closed for several hours after the accident, is on the largest island of the Matsu group, a few kilometres from the Chinese mainland.

Heavy fighting rages north of Afghan capital

KABUL (AFP) — Intense battles raged Sunday north of Kabul between the Taliban army that controls the capital and an opposition alliance, with sources reporting overnight gains by opposition forces.

Breaking 18 days of deadlock on the frontlines around 25 kilometres north of Kabul, the rival factions launched all their heavy weaponry into the new battle, correspondents said.

"The opposition has gained some hilltops and villages in the western edge of the valley, but it is unclear who actually launched the offensive," an independent source told AFP.

The source said the town of Shakar Dara — situated around 20 kilometres north of Kabul — had fallen into

opposition hands overnight, but was unaware if anti-Taliban forces were still in the town.

Taliban fighters close to the battle area prevented journalists from reaching the front, claiming they had broken through the frontlines of the ousted Kabul regime's military strongman Ahmad Shah Masood.

"We have broken the frontlines of the enemy, and are cleaning up the area, but the front is too dangerous to travel to," one fighter at a tense checkpoint said.

The Taliban fighter said the hardline Taliban militia had launched an attack on the opposition-held town of Mir Bacha Kot, but had yet to make an advance on enemy positions.

Jeeps carrying at least six dead Taliban fighters were

seen speeding from the frontlines towards the capital, passing dozens of cars packed with militiamen racing in the opposite direction towards the battle.

Rival jet bombers were in full action throughout the morning, sending towering plumes of black smoke into the sky as 500-kilogramme devices exploded on the fertile agricultural plains.

Reporters saw at least two bombs dropped by anti-Taliban jets striking an area close to the main road leading north from Kabul, and sources said Taliban jets have resumed pounding opposition-held areas to the north.

Sources based in the northern stronghold of the anti-Taliban alliance said Mr. Masood's forces are no longer held back by fuel

shortages, a factor which opposition commanders say has dogged their progress.

"A number of fuel tankers arrived in Masood-held areas Saturday, and Masood has also been bringing out his heavy guns from his stronghold in the Panjshir Valley," the source said.

Mr. Masood, who is allied against the Taliban with a Shiite Muslim faction and ethnic-Uzbek warlord General Abdul Malik, has been based in his native Panjshir Valley since he was ousted from Kabul in September last year.

Heavy fighting broke out nearly three weeks ago when forces loyal to Mr. Masood grabbed the provincial capital of Charikar, situated 64 kilometres north of Kabul and advanced to within 20 kilometres of the capital.

ASEAN moves closer to admitting Cambodia

SINGAPORE (R) — ASEAN foreign ministers meet in Singapore Monday with the prospect that Cambodia will be admitted into the group soon, analysts and officials said at the weekend.

This would allow the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) to fulfil the vision of its founding fathers in 1967 for a grouping of all 10 countries in the region, making it the fourth largest trading bloc in the world.

Cambodia's entry, scheduled for last month along with Burma and Laos, was postponed because of the turmoil which followed the ouster of First Prime Minister Norodom Ranariddh by co-Premier Hun Sen on July 6 after two days of fighting in the capital, Phnom Penh.

King Norodom Sihanouk said Saturday that he regarded Ung Huot, elected first prime minister in Prince Ranariddh's place, as a puppet and that Prince

Ranariddh, his son, was still premier.

But he gave acting head of state Chea Sim authorisation to appoint Mr. Ung Huot and to sign decrees in his place, saying the power was out of his hands.

Bunn Negara, an analyst in Kuala Lumpur, said the king's move would help Cambodia's entry into ASEAN which originally said it still recognised Prince Ranariddh.

"This is what ASEAN wants... it wants to see stability and consensus in the country," he said. Thinhankorn Kanassutra, the Thai Foreign Ministry's deputy spokesman, said Bangkok may not strenuously object to the election of Mr. Ung Huot.

"If the selection of Ung Huot was done in accordance with the Cambodian constitution and in a fair and free manner we have no objection to that," he said. Diplomats and analysts

said ASEAN could no longer exclude Cambodia if its head of state has given his approval, even reluctantly, to the change of power in Phnom Penh.

"I think ASEAN is taking a realistic view of the situation, in terms of the power configuration in Cambodia," Julius Parrenas, executive director of the think-tank Centre for Research and Communication in Manila, told Reuters.

"They will have to take the present reality as a starting point. His (Mr. Hun Sen's) military forces practically control Cambodia."

Mr. Hun Sen and Prince Ranariddh formed their uneasy partnership after U.N.-run elections in 1993.

ASEAN links Burma, Brunei, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

But ASEAN ministers would not rush into embracing Cambodia as a member

and would keep a wary eye on the country, analysts said.

"They can afford to wait two, three months or so," said Bruce Gale, regional manager of the Political and Economic Risk Consultancy.

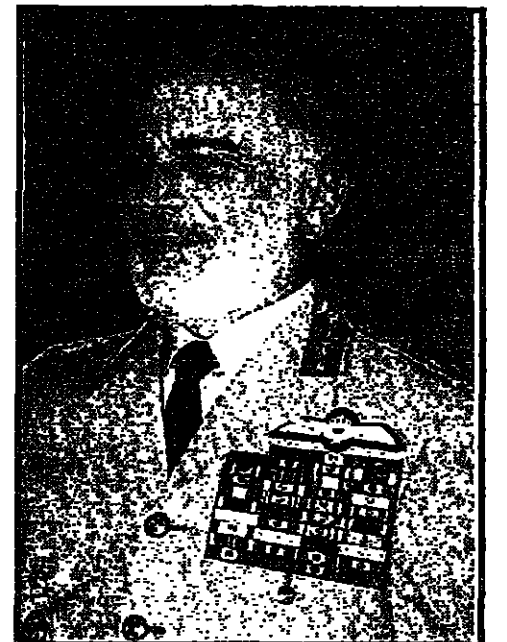
He said it would "undermine the credibility of the organisation" if it did an immediate about-face on its previous statement saying that it still recognised Prince Ranariddh.

Mr. Parrenas said ASEAN's apparent ability to convince Mr. Hun Sen to follow the constitution in replacing Prince Ranariddh would help to provide all sides with a face-saving way to resolve the problem.

"At least they were able to get Hun Sen to agree that there is a need to retain the institutions that were put up," Mr. Parrenas said, referring to the 1991 Paris peace agreement that ended decades of fighting in Cambodia.



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congratulations



and best wishes to your Majesty
on the occasion of the anniversary
of your

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May the Almighty grant you long
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Crisis must be overcome

THE INTENSITY of the efforts being exerted by Jordan, Egypt and the United States among others to salvage the peace process is a clear indication of the dangerous state the peace-making exercise has reached. The peace process is at a turning point. And nobody can afford to see the aspirations of all peoples of the region for the attainment of a comprehensive and lasting peace collapse. There is simply no alternative to ending the current nightmare.

The crisis should lead to a comprehensive assessment of all that has been and has not been done to produce progress in the peace talks so that something positive can emerge out of these difficult times. Overcoming the stalemate is the only way to move forward and take the peace process out of the narrow definition of security to which it has been limited in the last few weeks.

The peace process was started with the purpose of bringing comprehensive peace to the region. The interim period between the Palestinians and the Israelis was meant to create confidence between the two parties so that they can move forward to discussing the more challenging and essential issues of Jerusalem, borders and refugees. But the events of the last few months have shattered any confidence that has been built over the past few years. The need for a high risk strategy to stop this deterioration has never been greater. The United States seems to have reached this conclusion and hence its renewed active role in the peace-making efforts after months of low profile involvement. The visit of the special envoy to the peace process Dennis Ross to the region, expected to be followed by a visit by Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, renews hopes for a new American initiative that can bring back vigour and sincerity to the search for peace in the Middle East.

The U.S. efforts were preceded by vigorous endeavours by Jordan and Egypt to reactivate the Palestinian-Israeli track. The two countries worked in complete coordination out of a shared belief that nobody, not the Palestinians or the Jordanians or the Egyptians or the Israelis or the rest of the peoples of the area can live with renewed conflict and the failure of the peace process.

Jordan invested its credibility on both the regional and international levels to help end the crisis facing peace talks. At the request of Palestinian National Authority President Yasser Arafat, His Majesty King Hussein delegated His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to visit Israel and discuss with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu the steps that can be taken to lift the punitive measures Israel has taken against the Palestinians and return to the negotiating table.

The message that Jordan had to Israel was clear: there can be no peace without security, and no security without peace. Israel's security must be ensured. But that cannot be done through creating an atmosphere of frustration and despair on which fanaticism and extremism can feed. The measures taken against the Palestinians must be lifted and the peace talks resumed. Humanitarian issues must be addressed not as an alternative to the political aspects but as a necessary prerequisite for the resumption of political talks. Netanyahu responded by easing some of the measures imposed on the Palestinians. But that is not enough and Netanyahu has to realise that he cannot guarantee the security of Israelis by punishing the Palestinian people.

Engaging the Israelis is the only way of ensuring that Israel will take the necessary steps to reinstate the peace talks. It is easy to sit back and condemn Israel for what it is doing to the Palestinians. That, however, will not effect any changes in Israel's policies. Results can only be made through the more difficult exercise of positive engagement where arguments are faced with counter arguments and solutions are offered.

Jordan's policy of positive engagement was vindicated during the negotiations that led to the Hebron agreement and later during the water talks in which Israel agreed to provide the Kingdom with extra 50 million cubic metres of water a year. As the peace process faces one of its most alarming crises, only positive engagement will succeed in helping the Palestinians and channelling the peace talks back into addressing the political dimensions.

Security is only one aspect of the peace process. It must be dealt with so that the final status issues are addressed. As Prince Hassan said Saturday, unless the current crisis is contained, we cannot move to discussing the status of Jerusalem and settlements and refugees. In short, unless we overcome the present stalemate, we will not be able to get to the core issues that the Arabs want addressed.

Economic Review

By Dr. Yusuf Mansur

Peace equation: 'Economic well-being increases the cost of violence'

HAS THE move towards peace been right? Should one come to view peace as the alternative to war, not as the machine that brings prosperity to all? Such questions and doubts, which to some are well justified, need to surface and be addressed in full view of the people involved. Agreement alone will not make tomorrow better, but people will.

In September 1993, a Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements was signed between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). In April 1994, Israel signed a detailed protocol on economic relations providing for free trade between the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and the Jewish state, and between the PNA and the Arab World. Both agreements required a high degree of interaction between the Israeli and Palestinian peoples and their economies.

Clearly, Palestinians looked forward to an era of trade and prosperity; the welcoming crowds in the streets of Gaza attested to the willingness of a people to work with a peaceful solution which gives them some dignity, recognition and a shot at a self-made prosperity. The Israelis, on the other hand, wanted an end to suicide bombings and the terror inflicted upon their cities and citizens, and thought they would achieve security through these agreements. Almost three years after signing, both parties live in enclosures, and both mouth threats as hatred and fear shroud the Holy Land.

In the case of the Palestinians, the "peace equals prosperity" equation does not seem to hold, at least not just yet. The economic impact of the closure of territories on Palestinians who have been dependent on employment opportunities in Israel has not only been devastating to labour market mechanisms, it has also crushed any hope for a more self-reliant Palestinian economy with a strong domestic labour market. Firms which started to sprout in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank declined in number, activity and scope as closure uncertainty made investment a very precarious undertaking.

Consequently, real gross national product (GNP) in the Gaza Strip fell by 5.6 per cent in 1996, compared to the previous year. The number of private sector employers in the PNA areas fell in the first half of 1996 by 25 per cent. Unemployment in the Gaza Strip rose from 31 per cent to 55 per cent. In the West Bank, unemployment increased from 11.2 per cent to 45 per cent. Worker income dropped from \$740 million in 1992 to \$70 million in 1995. Exports

from the West Bank and Gaza fell from \$280 million in 1995 to \$129 million in 1996, a drop of 54 per cent. Furthermore, in the absence of revenues from taxes, and in order to pay for current operations, the PNA had to divert money away from long-term projects in areas such as the Gaza Strip whose infrastructure is virtually nonexistent as a result of years of occupation and active resistance.

The Israeli economy has also suffered from the escalation of terror as its ultra right-wingers imposed one enclosure after another on the Palestinians — in 1996 alone there were 13 such acts. Unemployment edged upwards with the start of the Netanyahu era, and the economic growth of 1994 peaked-out in 1995, to fizzle completely in 1996. Political instability, lack of a reasonable economic agenda of the Netanyahu government and the faltering confidence of the Knesset in a Likud-led government created sufficient uncertainty to drive Israeli leaders to shift the blame for the chaos directly on the PNA and away from Netanyahu's ineptness. Businesspeople on both sides suffered and poverty escalates every time an enclosure is imposed.

Terror and closures were not the implementation steps agreed upon by both parties. Unemployment and humiliation were not the terms of the accords. The demise of any economic base in the West Bank and Gaza creates hundreds of extremists and feeds the hatred. This should not be a difficult conclusion to be reached at by the present Israeli leadership, if the safety of their own citizenry is on their agenda in any way. One wonders at times if the extremists on one side is bringing about the birth of their counterparts on the other side.

Making peace is harder than waging harm on others. The former requires implementation, procedures and respect. The latter implies arrogance, starvation and humiliation. All parties must go back to what they agreed upon and implement the accords in line with the schedules and procedures already outlined in the signed documents.

Economic well-being increases the cost of violence to both parties. People with nothing to lose have nothing to lose. It must always be remembered that desperate people will act desperately. To quote His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, "the statement that there is no peace without security also means that there is no security without peace."

Americans should worry about stagnation of wages

By Alan B. Krueger

PRINCETON, New Jersey — Wall Street's chief fear has been that wage increases will exceed inflation, depressing corporate profits and igniting an inflationary wage-price spiral.

Main Street's chief fear has usually been the opposite: that wage increases will fail to keep pace with inflation, lowering living standards and forcing more family members into work.

Six years of economic recovery have generated 13 million net new jobs and the lowest American unemployment rate in 24 years. Market analysts and the Federal Reserve have carefully watched for signs that the tightest job market in memory might fuel inflation.

The slight increase in employment costs that the Labour Department has recently reported was scrutinised for its effect on inflation. Sensing little inflationary pressure, the market hit a new high.

Little attention was given to what the slow growth in wages and fringe benefits means to the workers themselves. Isn't it time for economic policymakers and the press to stop treating bad news for workers as good news for the economy?

The slowly growing real wages of many Americans

— especially the least well-off — still pose a long-term problem that is best addressed while the economy is strong.

The maze of statistics often tells a conflicting and confusing story, in part because different segments of the workforce are faring differently. Comparing wages at comparable phases of the business cycle reveals some striking trends.

From 1979 to 1989, the inflation-adjusted wage rate of the worker in the bottom 10th percentile — someone earning just above the minimum wage — fell by an astounding 16 per cent. The real wage of the median worker fell by two per cent. Only higher-income workers did well. At the 90th percentile, pay increased by five per cent.

From 1989 to 1997, real wages for workers at the bottom essentially stopped falling, and the growth of wages for workers at the top continued at a more moderate pace. But wages for the majority of workers in the vast American middle class continued to erode, with the median worker's wage falling by five per cent since 1989.

There is reason for scepticism that rapid pay increases will return any time soon. In the last year the real median weekly wage of full-time employees

increased by just 0.3 per cent.

No one knows for sure why wages have been stagnant. Obvious candidates include increased international competition, the decline of unions, deregulation and technological change. Whatever the reasons, the vast middle is sagging relative to the bottom and top. This has kept inflation at bay.

With subdued growth in wages, why does the public express such satisfaction with the economy? In part it is simply because the economy has improved. Finding a job has rarely been easier. Inflation is low. The steep decline in wages among the lowest-paid workers has come to a halt. Many economists think that these reported wage trends are too pessimistic because the measured inflation rate overstates the rise in the true cost of living by inadequately adjusting for new and improved products. And the 40 per cent or so of Americans who own stock have enjoyed a tremendous boom.

But people must think we are in an Alice-in-Wonderland economy. If real wages do not pick up, the reported satisfaction with the economy could ebb.

It has gone almost unnoticed that there is some room for wages to grow

without igniting inflation. Employers' health insurance costs are now falling, and a sudden turnaround seems unlikely. The cost of other fringe benefits is increasing less than inflation. There has also been an unprecedented decline for six straight months in the price of intermediate goods like parts and components.

Combined with a recent increase in productivity, these savings could permit wages to grow without increasing prices. And with profits at record levels, profit share could decline to accommodate wage growth and reduce price pressures.

Rapid economic growth has not been sufficient to lift real wages. We are in danger that when this economic upswing ends, it will be the first recovery on record in which the real wage of the median worker fell.

The economy has so successfully eliminated inflation and generated job growth that we can now turn to the problem of wage stagnation.

The writer, a professor of economics and public affairs at Princeton University, served as chief economist at the Labour Department in 1994 and 1995. This article is reprinted from The New York Times.

Human Rights File

Collective punishment — unlawful, inhumane

By Waleed M. Sadi

ISRAEL'S APPLICATION of collective punishment against the entire Palestinian population still effectively under its occupation is reminiscent of the kind of justice that was pursued in the dark ages. The blindfolded enforcement of such an outrageous and indiscriminate punishment is abhorrent to every civilised sense of justice and repugnant to the most basic elements of fairness.

As condemnable and unacceptable as the recent suicide bombing in Jerusalem was, there is no lawful precedent in contemporary times for punishing every single Palestinian child, woman and man for the actions of two men, no matter what their motivation was or who may have sponsored their violent act.

Israel prides itself with being the most advanced civil society in the Middle East and part of the democratic world. It would be interesting to invite Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to point out where in international, or even domestic, norms collective punishment is tolerated as a feature of law and order.

What possibly could be the guilt of the whole Palestinian people when two persons of still unknown identity carry out a suicide act against innocent civilians?

Mr. Netanyahu, in effect, is no different from the two men who carried out the suicide bombing since they and the group that may have stood behind them also view every Israeli as a target and thus justify the application of collective punishment against Israelis.

Mr. Netanyahu is obviously viewing every Palestinian as a legitimate target, no matter how much she or he is effectively removed from the bombing act.

Israel is duty bound to explain to the Palestinians, the Arab World and the international community the rationale behind the implementation of collective punishment against Palestinians. Israel is, after all, a country of laws, or at least that was what we all have been led to believe, and every policy consideration must be pursued and enforced in accordance with internal or international laws.

Where in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), for example, which Israel has ratified with much fanfare in the early nineties and which is applicable to all the territories under its control, or the Geneva Convention of 1949, is there even the faintest endorsement of collective punishment as a sane policy?

icy?

The fact of the matter is that Mr. Netanyahu and his inner circle of allies view the entire Palestinian people as their nation's primary enemy and anything that would promote their extinction, either by encirclement, siege or punitive measures, appears to be the first thing to contemplate.

As His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has poignantly pointed out during his recent working visit to Israel, the parties, all the parties, need to pursue a human peace where the foundation for the eventual full and warm peace can be inculcated in the minds and hearts of the immediate peoples in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

While it is understandable that Mr. Netanyahu wishes to get to the bottom of things and punish the guilty, one has still to see how he hopes to justify starving all the Palestinians or attempting to bring them down to their knees instead of cultivating the kind of human peace that Prince Hassan has called for.

Public Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani pledged to apologise to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat if it became evident that the two suicide bombers who killed 13 people in Jerusalem last week came from abroad. "If we know that the terrorists came from abroad, we will apologise," Mr. Kahalani was quoted as saying to the Arab newspaper Al Itihad last Tuesday.

Israel, therefore, must try to establish the truth about the bombings before incriminating the entire Palestinian people. Second, when the times comes to express an apology for being too fast on the draw and for the lynching of every Palestinian, the apology must be made to the people and not just to their leader.

Israel, under its current leadership, needs to redeem itself soon from its current "cowboy" sense of justice and start acting more maturely, wisely and, above all, justly with the very people it seeks to live with in peace and harmony for generations to come.

Putting past events and developments in perspective, the current Likud-led government has no policy for peace. Mr. Netanyahu believes that his mandate is effectively to rewrite the Oslo accords if not to reverse them altogether. This is the crux of the problem as all other issues would remain marginal in comparison.

As long as Israel under the existing conditions is committed to abiding the tide of peace, there can be no security for either Israelis or Arabs, wherever they may live.

The euro game — it goes France's way or all bets are off

By Jim Hoagland

WASHINGTON — The weak power of their own: the power to manipulate the strong with their vulnerability. Think of a pedestrian deliberately stepping into the path of an oncoming truck, willing to risk that the driver has time and distance to stop.

The French government of Socialist Prime Minister Lionel Jospin did something akin to this in the past week. France made clear it is not able to meet the strict criteria set for establishing a new continental currency for Europe by Jan. 1, 1999. France's partners in the European Union (EU) will have to adjust the rules to take French economic weakness into account if they want to go ahead.

The paradox of the power of the weak has long been central to French political thought. But Mr. Jospin, elected two months ago, acted

out of necessity as much as strategy. The timetable for the launch of the euro, as the new currency is to be called, forced him out into the crosswalk.

Behind the wheel of the metaphorical truck is Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany, who faces a wrenching dilemma: adopt a new, more flexible interpretation of the euro criteria, or abandon the timetable mandated in the Maastricht treaty on European integration and probably the euro itself.

This is a choice about what kind of Europe will exist at the turn of the century. It was implicit in the bargain on a common currency struck at Maastricht, the Netherlands, in 1991 by Mr. Kohl and then-President Francois Mitterrand of France. They were willing to let the future determine whether the values that stand behind a new European currency would be predominant-

ly French or predominantly German. The answer is now known: the values will be French, or they will not be.

France has always championed a "political" interpretation of the Maastricht criteria for monetary union, seeing them as guidelines rather than fixed thresholds. The French want flexibility and some easing of the anti-inflation rigours that the dominance of the German Deutsche mark has imposed on all EU economies and particularly on France.

But the German Bundesbank and public opinion are hostile to any flexibility that leads to a weakening of their currency. That is why German politicians have insisted that the criteria are the criteria. They have spotlighted the requirement that a qualifying nation's budget deficit cannot exceed 3.0 per cent of its gross national product.

The 3.0 per cent deficit criteria was particularly useful for excluding Italy from the monetary union. German public opinion seems convinced that including Italy will make the euro an unstable currency and rob their savings of value. Including Italy would intensify the already existing German public hostility to the sacrifice of the D-mark.

But the problem is now bigger than Italy. This past week, Mr. Jospin's government completed its initial financial review and announced revenue forecasts that put the French budget deficit for the coming year at 3.2 per cent to 3.3 per cent — if all goes well with the new corporate tax increases that the Socialists announced at the same time.

The more likely French number appears to be 3.5 per cent to 3.7 per cent.

The official unveiling of France's lack of room to

manoeuvre puts Mr. Kohl more firmly on the spot than any attempted display of French strength or ultimatum could.

The Maastricht timetable was chosen by Mr. Mitterrand with an eye towards having the pro-European Kohl still in power when the key decisions came due. Mr. Kohl is committed to working for a European Germany rather than a German-dominated Europe. Harnessing the mark to a common currency was the first big step in that programme.

But what happens if this ambition is beyond Europe's means? What happens if the French theory that monetary union should precede, and bring about, political unity turns out to be wrong?

Those questions are being asked seriously in Europe now, and foreign currency markets have reacted by strengthening the dollar

against the mark and French franc. This ups the pressure on Mr. Kohl to commit himself — now — either to a softer euro and more flexible interpretation of the criteria, or to come up with an alternative timetable and phasing-in plan that is credible to the markets.

America has several major concerns in this currency minefield.

One is not to be tagged with the blame for a breakup of the euro plan or for a punishing run against European currencies in the marketplace. President Bill Clinton and Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, who have been studiously neutral on the monetary union, should be more supportive as troubles accumulate. America has nothing to gain from a European currency war, and nothing to lose in making this clear.

The Washington Post

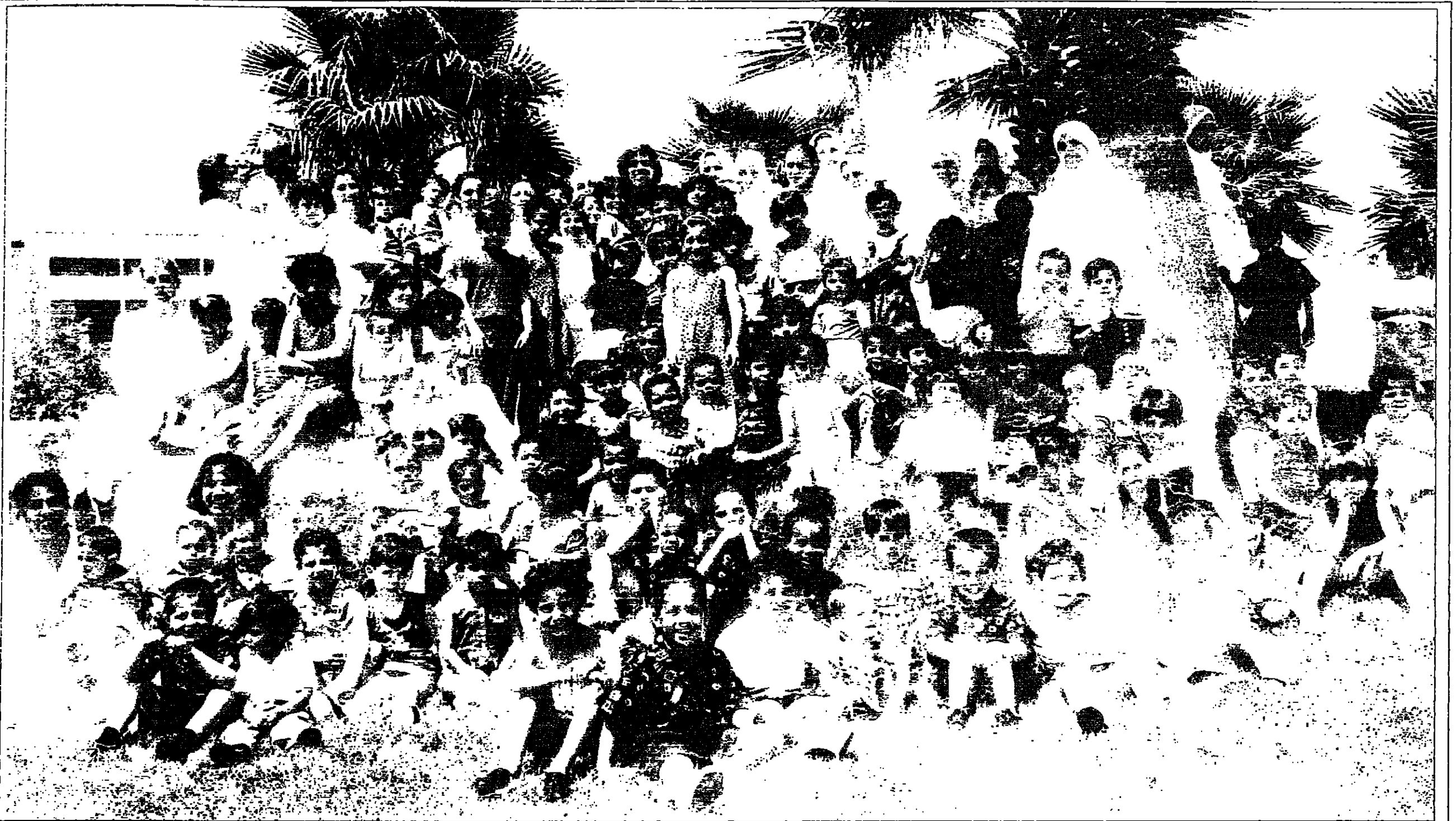
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Congratulating the king in a special way

Orphaned children who were moved to live at Al Hashemiyeh Palace, or Dar Al Bir, earlier this year are congratulating His Majesty King Hussein on the 45th anniversary of his accession to the throne in their special way. The children, moved to the palace at the King's directives, gathered in front of the palace to have a group photo and offer it as a present to the King on the anniversary.

On March 1, King Hussein said he decided to transform Al Hashemiyeh Palace into a home for

the orphaned and homeless children and name it Dar Al Bir. The King took the decision following visits he paid along with Her Majesty Queen Noor to several orphanages and discovering that they lack the needed services and qualified personnel.

"I saw with my own eyes that the place was crowded and old, lacking qualified persons to run it and help the children," said the King in a letter to the then Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti following a visit to Al Hussein Welfare Institute.

"I also witnessed the low standard of health care, malnutrition, lack of cleanliness, shortage of clothes and lack of basic requirements that should exist in such foundations," the King added in the same letter that also gave instructions that Al Hashemiyeh Palace be turned into a home for orphans.

Following the visits, the King said he intended to personally review conditions at all orphanages in the Kingdom. "What shocked me in all that is that

it was happening in my country and without me knowing about it," the King said in a wide-ranging interview on Jordan Television then.

The plight of orphaned children surfaced after three hospitals refused to treat a four-year-old orphan who was suffering from a stone in the bladder. The child and other malnourished children were taken to hospitals and received the required medical care upon directives by the King.

Anti-germ goods boom as Japan fears outbreak

By Stuart Young
Reuters

TOKYO — A boom in anti-bacterial goods is sweeping Japan as a sweltering summer revives fears of another outbreak of the lethal E.Coli bacteria that killed 11 people last year.

A mind-boggling array of germ-resistant goods — including lamps, sprays, memo pads, earphones, portable phones, electric pianos, clothes dryers and baseball mitts — have started appearing on shop shelves as businesses seek to cash in on the health worries.

During last summer's E.Coli O-157 food poisoning epidemic, more than 10,000 people fell ill. So far this year there have been only isolated outbreaks, but the worst heat is yet to come.

Advertisements for the products pander to public anxiety about the bacterial menace amidst a growing tendency in Japanese society towards conscience-soothing hygiene products.

Daiichi department store chain spokesman Katsunori Tanaka said awareness of O-157 had spawned a diversification in anti-germ goods.

"After the epidemic last summer there was a big leap in sales. We now have separate anti-bacterial goods sections in almost all of our stores," Mr. Tanaka said.

The product lines include a plethora of kitchen utensils, toilet goods treated with anti-bacterial agents, medicated soaps and alcohol sprays, he added.

Anti-germ goods on sale in other shops include bed sheets, pillows, electric appliances, even bank-books, not to mention Fujitsu's addition last year — a bank automatic cash dispenser with a germ-inhibiting keyboard.

Japan's appliance giants

are also hoping for big sales of dish-dryers, a recently developed appliance whose claim to combat O-157 is based on a government announcement that the deadly strain would die on exposure to 75 degrees Celsius temperatures.

Car steering wheels, shift levers and even seat cover materials have become a new battleground for anti-bacterial goods.

Nissan Motor Co. Ltd. spokesman Masato Saito said germ-resistant interior features are now a major part of the car maker's sales pitch.

"It's definitely a big selling point in the sales campaign for our new line of vehicles," said Mr. Saito, adding: "It's probably partly due to O-157 but there's also a general trend among the population towards high sanitary standards, particularly among the young," he said.

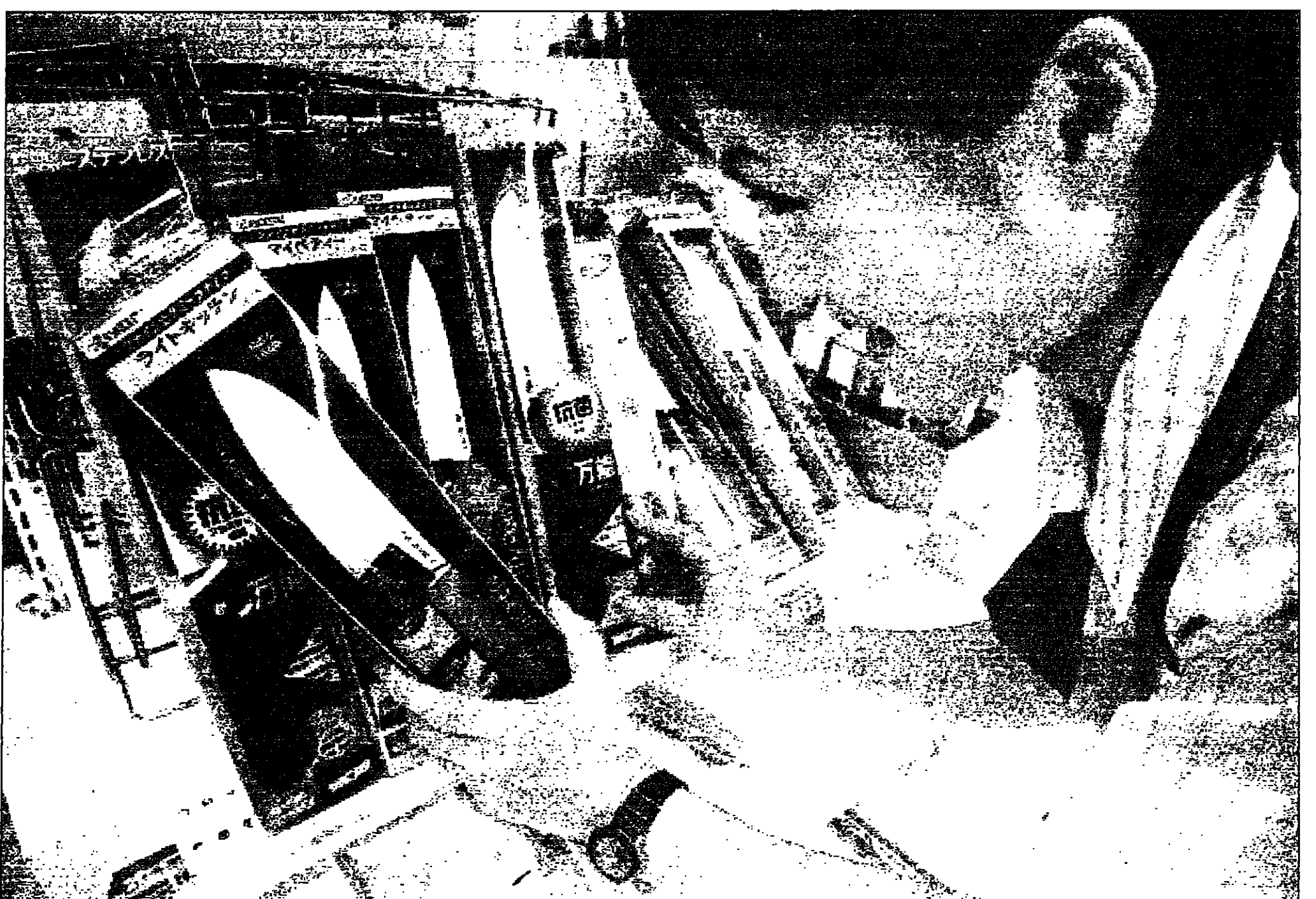
"In the 20 to 30 age group there's a growing interest in cleanliness."

But even in a society where blowing one's nose in public is a serious faux pas and people of all ages walk around in public wearing what appear to be surgical masks to avoid inconveniencing others with their sniffle, the tendency towards hygiene is only skin deep, psychologist Bob Carlsen said.

"There is a kind of generalised anxiousness about cleanliness in Japan. There are those external things but if you've ever been in a Japanese kitchen, it's quite different to a Dutch kitchen or a British kitchen..." Carlsen said.

He added: "It's puzzling why there is such a difference between the outside and the inside — the way people put on appearances in front of others and the way they really are."

E.Coli O-157, one of the fastest-growing food-borne infectious diseases, is com-



Daiichi supermarket saleswoman Noriko Watanabe checks anti-bacterial kitchen knives, with bacteria-resistant grips, in the germ-resistant kitchen goods corner of the sales floor in Tokyo. A boom in anti-bacterial goods is sweeping Japan as a sweltering summer revives fears of another outbreak of the lethal E.Coli O-157 bacteria which killed 11 people last year in the country (Reuters photo)

monly spread through faecal contamination of meat, vegetables, dairy products and water.

Manufacturers say chemical substances and copper and silver ions in coatings and mixed into materials

inhibit the growth of microbes like O-157 and thus also reduce smells and unsightly stains.

However, Japan Consumer Information Centre researcher Satoshi Fukuyama said a rigorous test of a

range of anti-bacterial goods showed many products did not live up to the claims.

"If you cleaned some products regularly then they were a bit better than normal at preventing bacterial

growth, although some lost their effect almost completely after a month or so. But in some cases the products were hardly better than those not labelled as anti-bacterial," he said.

Moreover, Mr. Fukuyama

said there was a danger in relying on anti-bacterial goods instead of good hygiene.

"Even if it's labelled 'anti-bacterial' if you don't clean it, bacteria will grow just as normal. The danger

is that young people in particular do not know proper hygiene practices to combat bacteria like O-157. But because it's scary they will rely on the goods instead of doing something more effective," he said.

Majali meets Iraqi minister

Jordanian private sector urged to increase exports of humanitarian goods to Iraq

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Iraqi and Jordanian officials Sunday called upon the private sector to increase the Kingdom's exports of humanitarian goods to Iraq in line with the oil-for-food agreement, which Baghdad signed with the United Nations last December.

Minister of Trade, Industry and Supply Hani Mulki told reporters following his meeting with visiting Iraqi Minister of Industry and Minerals Adnan Al Ani that "the opportunity is available to Jordanian industrialists to increase their share of exports" to neighbouring Iraq.

"Jordanian-made commodities are good and their prices are reasonable, so the gates are open for our goods to find their way into the Iraqi

market," Dr. Mulki said.

The Iraqi minister, who also met with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, urged Jordanian businessmen towards more trade cooperation and to take advantage of Iraq's need for detergent and cooking oil.

Mr. Al Ani said Iraq wants to increase its imports through Aqaba.

According to the oil-for-food deal, Iraq was allowed to export \$2 billion worth of oil every six months in return for humanitarian purchases for its 20 million citizens.

Companies that won contracts with the Iraqi government must first receive approval from the U.N. to export their products to Iraq.

Earlier this year, private Jordanian firms won contracts worth \$120 million, mainly medicine, detergents and cooking oil, but were only able to receive U.N. approvals



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Industry Minister Hani Mulki (left) meeting with Iraqi minister and ambassador (right)

for \$60 million worth of those contracts.

Dr. Mulki said the failure to win the world body's approval for all the contracts was due to "mistakes" committed by Jordanian exporters when they applied for the U.N. permission.

These, he said, included improper filling of the application form and inappropriate pricing of the goods.

Jordanian exporters have gained enough experience in dealing with these matters, Dr. Mulki stressed, adding that the government has undertaken several measures to overcome delays in obtaining the U.N. approvals.

Dr. Mulki added that Jordan's envoy to the United Nations will work to ensure the approval of the U.N. on the exporters' applications.

Asked about regional competition, minister denied that Iraqi-Syrian trade rapprochement would have any negative impact on Jordan's export opportunities and said the Kingdom is supporting such moves between Arab countries. Mr. Al Ani was in Jordan to represent his country in the Iraqi-Jordanian Industry Company (IJIC), which was established in 1987 with a capital exceeding \$60 million to launch joint ventures between the two countries.

The firm, which is owned by the governments of both countries, has prime interests in the food industry.

The company also is involved in veterinary and cattle rearing projects.

During their meeting, the two ministers agreed to increase the capital of IJIC offshoot firm from \$7 million to \$10 million. They also reviewed the performance of the company in the first eight months of this year.

Dr. Mulki said the two countries want to enhance trade cooperation, especially in the industrial sector.

The minister is expected to discuss increasing the \$255 million trade protocol between the two countries with Iraqi Trade Minister Mohammed Mahdi Saleh, who arrived here Sunday for talks with officials.

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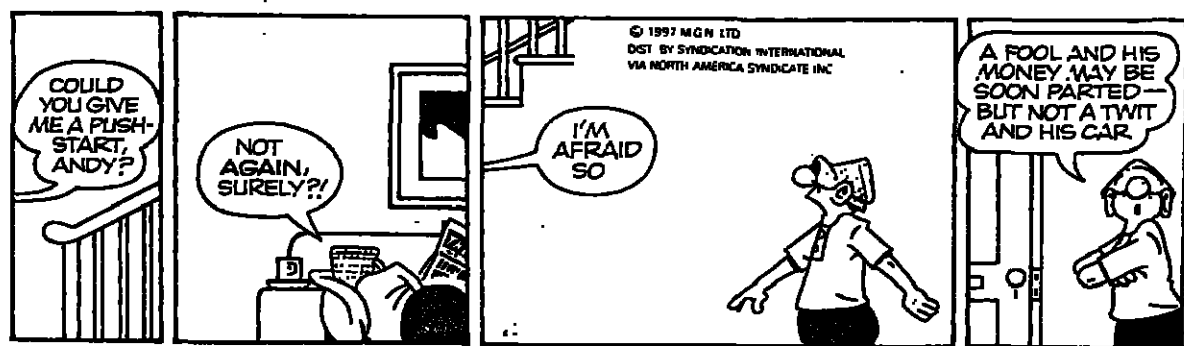
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Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



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The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	ITL	FRF	ESP	PTA
US Dollar	-	1.8465	0.6289	1.5085	114.48	1.3578	1600.00	2.0804	6.2235
DE Mark	0.5416	-	0.3407	0.6168	61.99	0.7511	374.28	1.1266	3.3713
GB Sterling	1.5875	2.9270	-	2.3825	184.82	2.2028	2857.50	3.3026	8.8798
CH Franc	0.6629	1.2234	0.4171	-	75.88	0.5194	1192.61	137.97	4.1234
JP Yen	0.0087	1.6115	0.5494	1.3186	-	1.2110	16.71	181.57	5.4316
CA Dollar	0.7207	1.3263	0.4527	1.0854	1.21	-	1294.31	1.4844	4.4715
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0253	0.3495	0.8638	1574.50	0.7705	-	11.55	3.4556
FL Guilder	0.4807	88.71	0.3025	72.50	54.99	0.8667	864.80	-	2.5961
FR Franc	0.1607	0.2963	0.1010	24.2098	18.37	0.2227	33.39	33.3900	-

Middle Eastern Currencies									
	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	ITL	FRF	ESP	PTA
US Dollar	-	0.7090	3.7502	0.3770	3.6398	0.3048	3.6728	1538.00	3.3825
Jordan Dinar	1.4104	-	5.2884	0.5317	5.1337	0.4299	5.1798	2189.25	4.7708
Saudi Riyal	0.2867	0.1891	-	0.1006	0.97	0.0813	0.96	410.11	0.9020
Bahrain Dinar	2.85	1.8807	9.8477	-	9.65	0.8085	8.74	4079.88	8.9784
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1848	1.0303	1.0303	-	0.0837	1.01	422.55	0.8283
Kuwait Dinar	3.2808	2.3281	12.3038	1.2368	11.94	-	12.05	6045.93	0.9283
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1931	1.0212	1.0227	0.9911	0.0830	-	418.79	0.9210
Lebanese L1000	0.65	0.4810	2.4384	0.2481	2.3668	0.1982	2.3878	-	2.1993
Egyptian	0.2958	0.2096	1.1087	0.1115	1.0761	0.0801	1.0857	454.68	-

Energy									
	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	ITL	FRF	ESP	PTA
Brent	18.63	19.22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W. Texas	19.35	20.08	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bonny	18.63	19.32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dubai	17.75	17.78	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
UL Gas	214.00	222.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Mid-East Currencies									
	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	ITL	FRF	ESP	PTA
SA Riyal	0.2867	0.1891	0.1006	0.97	0.0813	0.96	410.11	0.9020	-
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.1931	1.0212	1.0227	0.9911	0.0830	-	418.79	0.9210
KW Dinar	3.2808	2.3281	12.3038	1.2368	11.94	-	12.05	6045.93	0.9283
BH Dinar	0.2770	0.1931	1.0212	1.0227	0.9911	0.0830	-	418.79	0.9210
CY Pound	1.8374	3.3928	1.1567	2.7719	210.346	-	-	-	-

Metal Prices									
	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	ITL	FRF	ESP	PTA
Gold (oz's)	326.2	326.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Silver (oz's)	4.39	4.41	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Platinum (oz's)	443.5	448.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
AL (3 Months)	1728	1732	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CU (3 Months)	2287	2292	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Zinc (3 Months)	1544	1548	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lead (3 Months)	913	916	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NI (3 Months)	7020	7050	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Main Equity Indices									
	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	ITL	FRF	ESP	PTA
New York	DOW JONES	8031.22	-156.78	-1.91	8184.05	7976.4	8188	-	-
New York	S&P 500	833.54	-17.65	-1.88	851.19	825.74	851.19	-	-
London	FT-SE 100	5031.3	-55.5	-1.09	5088.4	5008.4	5088.4	-	-
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	19604.46	128.81	0.66	19641.8	19256.1	19478.9	-	-
Paris	CAC 40	2996.27	-60.07	-1.97	3045.86	2981.1	3038.34	-	-
Frankfurt	DAX	4384.15	-80.2	-1.36	4404.14	4384.15	4414.35	-	-

Energy									
	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	ITL	FRF	ESP	PTA
Coffee (c/lbs)	197.17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cocoa (\$/ton)	1508	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sugar (\$/ton)	341	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wheat (\$/ton)	145	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Soya (c/lbs)	21.77	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tea (\$/kg)	165	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barley (\$/bsh)	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rice (\$/ton)	460	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS

- Open carriage
- Kilt wearers
- Halt
- Paperlike cloth
- Remit in full
- Biblical name
- The Red
- Boxing site
- Latvia's capital
- "... than the sword"
- Grandiloquent speaker
- Fork part
- Three-handed card game
- Flowing substance
- Virtual reality's opposite
- Track meet entrant
- So be it
- Tic-tac-toe triumph
- New: abbr.
- Aromatic compound
- Blueprint
- After expenses
- Capri, e.g.
- Imperturbable
- The Sahara, e.g.
- Sheriff's men
- a bell (jogged the memory)
- Some fireworks
- From — Eternity
- Monogram unit: abbr.
- Trademark
- Ruler
- Ocean motion
- Actress Goldie
- Idem
- Fern leaf
- Siren
- Solidarity
- Consumed
- Functions
- Temporary grants
- Gift recipient
- Has a profound impact
- Hit hard

by Virginia B. Hopewell 08/06/97

Tuesday's Puzzle solved:

PATH	BALED	DOFF
ECHO	OSAGE	ELIA
AMAT	THORN	VENT
SENECA	SESSIONS	
KLINE	SEAL	
HES	TITUS	GIST
ALA	ECON	CASTRO
LIONS	ANITA	HEAR
LIONEL	TEND	PLY
STAR	SEATO	MAX
CINQ	ROMEO	
STAKEOUT	NEXTTO	
HERB	SAUTE	THAW
INGA	ERRIS	RENE
MOOR	SENSE	ARKS

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41 Made
43 Cleopatra's handmaiden
45 Long poem
47 — Pointe, Mich.
48 Small fish
52 Having great bulk
53 Sound of pain

54 Small receptacle
55 Dog
56 Aware of
57 Adore
58 Cry of dismay
59 Seed
62 Time zone letters

HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 1997

By Thomas S. Pierson,
Astrologer, Carroll
Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) If you handle your duties in a different manner today, you will get much better results. After lunch use much more patience with your career activities and thereby you can retain the respect of fellow associates.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You are looking forward to something pleasant in the morning today. Delays occur, however everything works out just fine later this evening which will make your loved ones quite content from the outcome.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A home affair could deter your progress today, however be patient and in the days ahead you can make up for lost time. Later this evening will be good for going out on the town with close friends on recreational activities.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You find it difficult to get your letters written early today, however later this evening you can do a more clever chore of them. Straighten out travel difficulties later this evening and you can make your loved ones more respective.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Morning bodes poorly for handling a financial matter, postpone it. Drive carefully while you are on the highway and avoid any difficult situations. Later this evening will be good for meeting with knowledgeable people.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Deal carefully with higher-ups this morning. Later this evening you will reap benefit for your efforts. Ideas work best after lunch and thereby you can gain the support of a bigwig through your method of operation.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Personal concern might prove consuming in the morning today, however later this evening you can meet and learn from a new personality. Take a new acquaintance out for dinner and thereby you can gain new knowledge.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Devote time today to business, not to one who likes to gossip or there could be details spread which could be detrimental. Accept your mates fine ideas for the days ahead and make your business activities more successful.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) It will prove beneficial to yourself today and others to stay out of a disagreement today. Charm will work for you at this time than meddling. Later this evening will prove quite beneficial through your efforts.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You should stop worrying about new difficulties and start labouring on strengths. Try to understand a fellow associate, and be generous with your loved ones. Later this evening will be good for consulting with knowledgeable people.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You should not fear diving into new activities which initially seems costly. It will benefit in the days ahead. The evening is a good time to be with your mate and develop a plan of action which is beneficial.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You should not permit an outsider to influence family affairs at this time. Spend time with close friends who are cheerful and helpful with your career activities and make your efforts quite beneficial.

Birthstone of August: Peridot — Golden Quartz

Revenue from estate deals de by JD3.34 mi

REVENUE FROM real estate deals during the first six months of this year amounted to JD3.34 million, according to a report from the Jordanian Real Estate Association (JREA). The revenue during the same period of 1996 was JD2.1 million. The JREA reported that the revenue from real estate deals during the first six months of this year was 57 per cent higher than the same period of 1996.

Jordanian load rises by per cent this

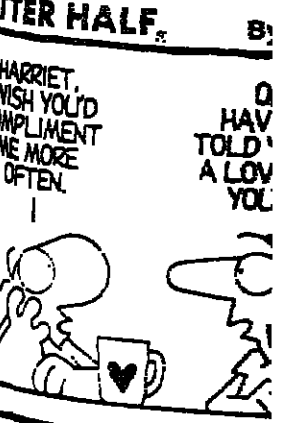
JORDANIAN airlines traffic during the first six months of this year rose by 15 per cent compared to the same period of 1996. The Jordanian Airlines Association (JAA) reported that the total passenger load during the first six months of this year was 1.5 million, compared to 1.3 million in the same period of 1996. The JAA also reported that the total cargo load during the first six months of this year was 15,000 tons, compared to 13,000 tons in the same period of 1996.

The JAA also reported that the total freight load during the first six months of this year was 15,000 tons, compared to 13,000 tons in the same period of 1996. The JAA also reported that the total passenger load during the first six months of this year was 1.5 million, compared to 1.3 million in the same period of 1996.

Service Com receives 3,582 employment appli

THE JORDANIAN Service Commission received 3,582 applications for employment during the first six months of this year, according to a report from the Commission. The Commission reported that the total number of applications received during the first six months of this year was 3,582, compared to 3,000 in the same period of 1996.

BETTER HALF.



WHAT I TOLD A LOVE YOU

Now arrange it from the supplied by the

GUIDE FRANK VERS

This can cost a steady ex

AN ICY STARE

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

Revenue from real estate deals declines by JD3.34 million

REVENUE FROM real estate deals during the first seven months of this year amounted to JD37.88 million compared to JD41.22 million during the same period of 1996. The revenue during last month was JD6.02 million, an amount that is 13 per cent less than the figure posted during July 1996 and 22 per cent below the figure registered during June 1997.

The least revenue came from Shobak where land deals there provided the treasury with JD18,172 during the first seven months of this year compared to JD22,654 during the same period of 1996. The highest revenue was posted at Amman where the total stood at JD8.51 million from January to July of this year. The total during the same period of 1996 was JD6.62 million (Al Aswaj).

Royal Jordanian passenger load rises by 9.3 per cent this year

ROYAL JORDANIAN airlines transported 656,930 passengers during the first six months of this year, 9.3 per cent higher than the number transported during the same period of 1996. The average passenger seat factor during the January-June of 1997 was 66.30 compared to 63.3 during the same period of 1996. The airline carried 37,676 tonnes of cargo, 13.8 per cent more than the volume lifted during the January-June period of 1996. As such, the average load factor stood at 57.8 during the first six months of this year.

The highest growth in passenger traffic and cargo activity was on Indian sub-continent routes. North Africa, the Middle East and Far East routes in addition to those of Arab Gulf countries. In this regard, the Royal Jordanian fleet flew at total of 32,739 hours compared to 31,331 hours during the six months of 1996.

Meanwhile, the Royal Wings transported 21,959 passengers on the Amman-Aqaba route and 9,066 passengers on the Amman-Tel Aviv route during the past six months. The seat factor on both routes was 47 per cent and 52 per cent respectively. The Royal Wings has recently signed agreements with Jordan InterContinental and Forte Grand as well as Dan Panorama and Dan Karmel in Haifa to encourage tourism between Jordan and northern Israel and to enable tourists in both countries to use the mentioned hotel at reduced charges (Al Aswaj).

Civil Service Commission receives 3,582 new employment applications

A TOTAL of 3,582 new employment applications were submitted to the Civil Service Commission until the middle of July, sources at the commission have said. By educational classification, 335 applicants were holders of the general secondary certificate (Tawjihi), 738 held diploma degrees (community colleges), 2,406 had BA degrees, five applicants held higher diploma degrees, 63 had masters degrees, nine with board and 26 with doctorate degrees. 1,655 of the applicants were males and 1,927 were females (Al Ra'i).

Lebanon renews invitation for Iraqi trade visit

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq has received a new invitation for a trade visit to Lebanon after a mission due in August was scrapped because of a row over the Arab Games in Beirut, an official said Sunday.

Adnan Al Qodsi, president of Iraq's Chambers of Industry, told AFP that the invitation was under consideration.

The president of Lebanon's Association of Industrialists, Jacques Surraf, sent a representative "to explain the reasons which pushed Lebanon

not to allow Iraqi athletes to take part in the Arab Games," he said.

Mr. Surraf delivered the new invitation.

Baghdad called off a trade visit due to take place on Aug. 19 that would have been its first to Lebanon since U.N. sanctions were imposed on Iraq for its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The decision came after Lebanon barred Iraqi athletes from the Arab Games under pressure from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, which are key financial backers of Beirut's

post-war reconstruction.

But amid signs of the row being patched up, an Iraq-Lebanon football match has been scheduled for Aug. 21 in Beirut. And an Iraqi volleyball team is to compete in a Beirut tournament starting on Aug. 17.

Mr. Qodsi also said he would lead a delegation to Syria Friday to try to seal more contracts under the U.N. oil-for-food exemption to the seven-year embargo.

Asian business confidence surges as exports rise — survey

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Business confidence is surging throughout the Asia-Pacific region amid expectations of growing export demand, according to a quarterly survey conducted by the Gallup organisation for air express firm DHL.

A majority of businessmen polled in 12 of 15 regional countries were upbeat about short-term export prospects over the next 12 months, the results of the survey received here showed.

"And in each of the 15 countries involved, the majority were also optimistic about long-term export orders over five

years," according to the DHL export indicator, which tracks influential trade trends in the Asia-Pacific region.

The survey was based on interviews with 1,174 senior executives from large exporting companies in Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.

It was conducted over a five-week period during April and May by the U.S. pollster Gallup organisation on behalf of DHL. The poll was held before the current regional currency crisis sparked by a July 2 Thai baht float.

Most Asian economies experienced slower growth last year due to a slowdown in exports, mainly stemming from a downturn in global electronics demand. Electronics exports are expected to improve in the second half of this year.

According to the survey, 80 per cent of the exporters polled in India and Malaysia, 73 per cent in Vietnam and 68 per cent in Hong Kong rated short-term export prospects as "excellent" or "good."

More than 50 per cent of the respondents in China, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Taiwan, Indonesia and the Philippines also expressed similar optimism.

Expectations for export orders over the next five years, compared to the past 12 months, were high, with more than 50 per cent of respondents rating them as "excellent" or "good." The only exception was Japan, where only 40 per cent were optimistic, DHL said.

The survey cited South East Asia as the biggest growth market over the previous 12 months and over the next year, with Europe and the United States also singled out for expanding demand.

Costs, including prices of raw materials and finished products, was predicted to be a key factor influencing export sales performance.

The report said the trade atmosphere — import and export policies, competition, costs and customs difficulties — were seen as the primary obstacles for greater export success by exporters in countries.

"Based on experience, exporter-rate India as the most difficult country for trade initiation, with Hong Kong and Singapore viewed as most receptive to export trade," it said.

Projects approved to look into cheap Mideast water

MUSCAT (R) — A water desalination centre spawned by the Middle East peace process has approved 20 projects to study ways to cut the cost of producing water in the largely arid region, a centre official has said.

The research projects were the first to be approved by the Middle East Desalination Research Centre (MEDREC), set up in December 1996 to look into one of the region's most precious resources.

"The centre has approved 20 projects out of 40 recommended ones," said Shannon McCarthy, consultant for programmes and project development at the Muscat-based MEDREC.

"We will issue tenders for research proposals to institutions and universities in October" at a meeting of the international desalination association due to be held in Madrid.

The centre hoped to give out first awards to the projects by December 1997, she said. Water is not only scarce but a bitter point of contention between Israelis and Palestinians as well as between other regional states.

Water desalination is vital for the largely arid countries of the Middle East, but its costs are prohibitive for most. Many governments bear most of the cost of desalination, which experts say accounts for just 5.75 per cent of regional water resources.

Middle East countries mainly depend on scarce rainfall and non-renewable underground water, they say.

The United States, Oman, Japan and Israel have committed \$3 million each to MEDREC. South Korea has contributed \$600,000. The European Union is planning to donate \$3.6 million.

A total of 40 projects valued at \$3 million for the first year and covering 10 areas in the field of desalination technology were recommended in June by a meeting of international experts in Muscat.

"The executive council reviewed the recommendations...and approved roughly 20 projects for the first year, which amounts to \$1.5 million of potential research funding," Ms. McCarthy said.

She said the budget for the projects would be decided on yearly basis.

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
HOUSING BANK, CENTRAL BANK, AMMAN - JORDANIAN											
ORGANISED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 10/08/1997											
PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	PAST 12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P/E	DIV. OF TRANS.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE	PERCENT	PERCENT
298,000	218,500	ARAB BANK	13.5	1.36	14	540	159010	293.20	294.25	1.25	0.42
2,360	1,980	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	8.4	0.00	22	22073	45255	2.05	2.05	0.00	0.00
3,660	2,760	BANK OF JORDAN	6.4	0.00	2	15000	45750	3.05	3.05	0.00	0.00
2,480	2,150	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	8.6	7.32	6	6805	15725	2.31	2.31	0.00	0.00
5,200	4,500	THE HOUSING BK.	14.5	4.01	3	10120	5062	2.04	2.04	0.00	0.00
4,180	2,440	JOR. KUPAT BANK	10.7	0.00	1	100	302	3.01	3.02	0.01	0.33
1,050	760	JOR. GULF BANK	4.7	8.68	6	9300	3247	1.98	1.98	0.00	0.00
4,050	3,480	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	15.8	0.00	6	675	3404	3.51	3.89	0.38	11.11
1,760	1,110	UNION BK. SAV. INV.	1.1	0.00	3	172	220	1.28	1.28	0.00	0.00
3,800	3,000	JOR. INV. FID. BANK	21.1	0.00	5	651	2139	3.20	3.29	0.09	2.81
BANK SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 217.02	CHG: +0.28	70	56587	284350				
2,950	2,700	JORDAN INSURANCE	12.0	5.36	2	1437	4024	2.80	2.80	0.00	0.00
2,260	1,590	JOP. FRENCH INSUR.	4.6	12.20	2	330	540	1.63	1.64	0.01	0.61
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 113.54	CHG: +0.05	4	1767	4564				
1,820	1,500	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	8.0	4.02	8	1781	2955	1.66	1.66	0.00	0.00
1,540	1,320	IRIDIO ELECTRICITY	8.5	6.10	2	350	497	1.42	1.42	0.00	0.00
3,050	2,150	SHIPPING LINES	16.8	4.51	2	1750	5040	2.90	2.88	-0.02	-0.69
1,510	930	NATL. PORTFOLIO	0.00	0.00	8	3710	5223	1.39	1.39	0.00	0.00
3,720	2,890	ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	7.9	0.00	8	10700	31819	2.98	3.01	0.03	1.01
1,220	930	ZARQA EDUCATION	0.00	0.00	2	700	686	0.98	0.98	0.00	0.00
2,230	1,630	UNIFIED CO.	8.4	6.25	4	3200	8578	1.74	1.76	0.02	1.15
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 109.59	CHG: +0.16	34	22231	51798				
4,450	3,220	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	26.7	2.77	32	6544	25798	3.95	3.97	0.02	0.51
10,250	9,040	JOP. PETROL. REFINERY	9.7	8.91	17	1830	18246	9.95	9.98	0.03	0.31
4,160	3,000	JOP. PETROL. REFIN.	15.2	4.94	19	4993	20217	4.05	4.05	0.00	0.00
1,800	1,310	JOP. PIPES MANFACT.	16.2	6.11	3	1750	2293	1.31	1.31	0.00	0.00
960	450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	9.7	0.00	3	3500	1610	0.46	0.46	0.00	0.00
1,310	1,000	ARAB PAPER CORP. TRD.	31.5	0.00	3	1100	1134	1.04	1.03	-0.01	-0.97
1,280	910	JORDANIAN PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	1	250	138	0.55	0.55	0.00	0.00
980	530	JOR. ROPEWORK IND.	0.00	0.00	21	13145	8696	0.64	0.66	0.02	3.13
3,000	2,130	NATL. CABLE WIRE. MPAC	37.4	0.00	1	500	12165	2.38	2.33	-0.05	-2.10
940	630	JOR. SUIP. CHEM.	9	0.00	2	350	210	0.60	0.60	0.00	0.00
1,670	1,120	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	17.1	5.22	4	1000	1340	1.34	1.34	0.00	0.00
2,020	1,080	UNIV. MOD. IND.	0.00	0.00	17	7950	9459	1.18	1.20	0.02	1.69
1,510	990	JOR. INDUS. RESOURCES	13.9	9.71	7	1610	3763	1.04	1.03	-0.01	-0.97
1,620	1,300	NATL. CHLORINE	14.7	4.49	15	6913	10693	1.53	1.56	0.03	1.96
1,070	810	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	15.2	0.00	1	500	415	0.84	0.83	-0.01	-1.19
1,930	2,080	NATL. TOBACCO	6.3	0.00	13	19510	22683	1.15	1.15	0.00	0.00
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 123.88	CHG: +0.09	160	73552	127755				
GRAND TOTAL			INDEX: 166.38	CHG: +0.20	268	154137	468467				
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 10/08/1997											
730	410	HACH. EOP. RENT. HACH.	0.00	0.00	2	400	200	0.53	0.50	-0.03	-5.88
660	410	JOP. TRADE FAC.	10.9	0.00	5	6600	2706	0.41	0.41	0.00	0.00
950	540	JOP. FIN. INV. CO.	0.00	0.00	10	8700	4959	0.56	0.57	0.01	1.79
840	650	UNION INV. 501	0.00	0.00	4	2800	532	0.68	0.68	0.00	0.00
620	370	ARAB FIN. INVEST.	0.00	0.00	5	4750	1948	0.40	0.41	0.01	2.50
950	720	AL-SHARQ INV. CO.	0.00	0.00	5	8750	7613	0.87	0.87	0.00	0.00
750	610	AL-SHARQ INV. 751	65.3	0.00	12	8639	3703	0.67	0.68	0.01	1.49
730	510	ARAB FOOD & MED.	0.00	0.00	1	350	186	0.67	0.68	0.01	1.49
570	380	ARAB INTL. INV. TRD.	44.9	0.00	4	1500	585	0.39	0.39	0.00	0.00
750	400	NATL. HLT. PRC. WHICCO	0.00	0.00	2	500	245	0.49	0.49	0.00	0.00
820	710	JORDAN STEEL	6.67	6.67	6	6310	4780	0.76	0.75	-0.01	-1.30
730	580	HIDEAST PHARM. 751	0.00	0.00	6	9250	3700	0.65	0.65	0.00	0.00
1,220	860	UNION TOBACCO 751	0.00	0.00	18	22600	10395	0.60	0.61	0.01	1.67
670	550	RAZZ PHARM. 851	0.00	0.00	1	500	350	0.95	0.95	0.00	0.00
570	320	INDOS. ENG.	0.00	0.00	3	6900	2346	0.34	0.34	0.00	0.00
820	580	NATL. POSTAL	0.00	0.00	1	750	480	0.63	0.64	0.01	1.67
1,000	730	NAT. ALUMINIUM. 751	0.00	0.00	15	26282	12735	0.75	0.75	0.00	0.00
860	590	MID. EAST COMPLEX	7.8	15.87	13	6350	4001	0.63	0.63	0.00	0.00
GRAND TOTAL			109	121961	61668						

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THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Harri Arnold and Mike Arginton

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

IGSEE
ILEEX
NENKLE
SAYMUL

There he is

WHAT THE ZOO KEEPERS FOUND WHEN THE WILD CAT ESCAPED

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: THE (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GUIDE FRANC VERSUS BEAUTY
Answer: This can cool a steamy encounter - AN ICY STARE

WORLD ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Bragging U.S. team crashes out in men's relay Remarkable Quirot retains title; Szabo takes 5000m

ATHENS (AFP) — America's bragging relay sprint team gatecrashed what was supposed to be "ladies night" at the World Athletics Championships here on Saturday.

Despite the fact there were no men's finals on the programme the USA's 4x100 relay squad managed to steal the headlines by failing to even get past the first round.

Hours after vowing to set a world record and crush arch-rivals Canada in Sunday's final, the first change between Brian Lewis and Tim Montgomery proved fatal.

Montgomery failed to get the baton and Maurice Greene's much hyped showdown with Canada's Donovan Bailey on the anchor leg was gone.

Greene, running anchor, collapsed in despair as he watched the blunder.

Making no attempt to hide his disgust, Greene, the 100m champion, finally got to his feet and walked slowly to the exit.

Dennis Mitchell, running three, blamed lack of practice for the disaster.

"We just don't do enough practice. It is a young team

and the technique is just not there but I still think we are the best," he said.

Canada nearly joined the Americans to the exit when they needed all of Bailey's power to make up for a poor baton change and secure fourth spot in the semi-finals and a place in Sunday's final.

While the Americans were flopping, the remarkable Ana Fidelia Quirot of Cuba was winning the gold medal in the women's 800m — retaining the title she won in Gothenburg two years ago.

The 34-year-old clocked 1min 57.14sec to outpace Russian Yelena Afanasyeva, who was second in 1:57.56. The 1993 champion Maria Mutola of Mozambique was a disappointing third in 1:57.59.

Quirot, who was almost burnt to death in a domestic incident in 1993 which led to her losing her baby, surged past Mutola in the straight to clinch the title — which she revealed was a strategy she had planned.

"My coach and I decided that I had to attack with about 80 metres to go as Maria would have been able to fight back if it had been any earlier," she said.



Cuba's Ana Fidelia Quirot (C) smiles as she carries her country's flag after winning the women's 800m final (Reuters photo)

Quirot, who still bears the physical scars of the fire, had another objective — which proved impossible the way the race was run.

"I wanted the world record but it was too rough a race and I decided that gold was enough for me," she said.

"This is a great championships for Cuba and I am so happy that I contributed to it. I dedicate this to Cuba and 'il comandante' (Fidel Castro).

"When I think back to what happened in 1993 it is hard to imagine that I would have recovered to win two World Championships.

That was a turning point for me because before I had been too relaxed but to have such an experience makes you realise that life is too short and you must take your chances," she commented.

In the long jump final

Russia's Ludmila Galkina overcame a headache and a patriotic Greek crowd to take the title.

Greece's Niki Xanthou, who briefly held the lead, had the home fans in the Olympic stadium roaring their approval, making it difficult for the other competitors, but Galkina was not to be denied when she jumped 7.05m.

"We all knew that the first one to jump seven metres would be the sure winner. Although I had a slight headache I managed it," said Galkina, giving Russia their first gold of the championships.

Italy's English import and defending champion Fiona May won the bronze, much to her chagrin.

"As defending champion I must be disappointed with the bronze but at least I tried," she said.

Trine Hattestad used fam-

ily inspiration to win the javelin title with a throw of 68.78m.

"My husband being in the stands and my two sons watching back in the hotel inspired me," said the Norwegian.

Australia's Joanna Stone was delighted with her silver medal throw of 68.64m, a personal best. The London-born policeman failed to qualify in the '96 Olympics but was never in danger of failing to make the cut here.

"Coming after Atlanta, I am absolutely thrilled. I didn't know what I had thrown in the last round but it doesn't matter. I'm really happy with the silver," beamed Stone.

Just as happy was third placed Tanja Damaske of Germany.

"First international medal, personal best. It's wonderful," she said.

Gabriela Szabo of Romania came off age in the outdoor arena when she took the women's 5,000m title to put alongside her 3,000m world indoor title.

The 21-year-old, fourth in Gothenburg two years ago, came home in a time of 14min 57.68sec, veteran Italian Roberta Brunet of Italy took silver with 14:58.29 and Fernanda Ribeiro of Portugal, the Olympic 10,000 champion, had to settle for the bronze in 14:58.85.

The American women's 4x100 relay team did what the men could not do — win.

Anchored by Gail Devers, they raced home in 41.47 to fail in their world record bid by one tenth of a second.

It was a second gold medal for 100m champion Marion Jones who ran the second leg.

Jamaica took silver and France the bronze.



Canada's Donovan Bailey (L) receives the baton from Bruny Surin during their 1st round heat of the men's 4x100 metres relay event at the World Championships in Athletics. The Canadian relay team clocked a time of 38.36 seconds and qualified for the semi-finals (Reuters photo)

Russian stripped of medal after dope test

ATHENS (AFP) — Russian athlete Olimpiada Ivanova, who won the silver medal in the 10-kilometre walk at the World Championships, has been stripped of her medal after testing positive for drugs, the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) announced here on Sunday.

The 27-year-old is automatically banned for two years.

She is the second athlete to lose a medal

at the championships after testing positive.

Ukrainian shot put gold medalist Aleksandr Bagach was stripped of his gold medal on Thursday.

The 30-year-old Bagach, who was suspended for a positive drugs test in 1989, returned a positive result for the stimulant ephedrine — he will only receive a public warning under the new IAAF rules brought in last week.



Gail Devers (L) of the United States receives the baton from her teammate Inger Miller (R) during the final of the women's 4x100 metres relay event at the World Championships in Athletics. The team of the USA clocked a time of 41.47 seconds and won the gold medal (Reuters photo)

Villeneuve wins Hungarian GP

BUDAPEST (AFP) — Jacques Villeneuve's Williams-Renault overtook the ailing Arrows-Yamaha of Damon Hill on the final lap to score a dramatic victory in Sunday's Hungarian Grand Prix.

World champion Hill, who had led for virtually the whole race, finished second — a remarkable performance in a notoriously unreliable car. He crossed the line 11sec behind Villeneuve.

Johnny Herbert of Britain was third in a saucer with World Championship leader Michael Schumacher of Germany fourth in his Ferrari.

Then came Schumacher's brother Ralf Schumacher in a Jordan-Peugeot and Shinji Nakano of Japan in a Prost-Mugen-Honda.

Canadian Villeneuve trailed Hill by over 30 seconds late in the race, but Hill's car suddenly lost power after a throttle failure with two laps remaining, depriving the Arrows team of its first Grand Prix victory in 299 races stretching back to 1978.

Villeneuve's fifth victory of the season enabled him to reduce Schumacher's cham-

pionship lead to just three points.

"It's great. Today allows us to get closer in the championship," said Villeneuve after the Williams team recorded its seventh win in 12 races at the 3.968km (2.465 miles) Hungaroring circuit.

Villeneuve covered the 77 laps, a total of 305.536km (189.851 miles), in 1hr 45min 47.149sec and helped Williams to close to within two points of Ferrari at the head of the Constructors' Championship.

"Damon was really flying," Villeneuve said. "At the end of the race it was looking pretty grim. Then, with two laps to go, my pit crew told me he was slowing down. Then, when I got to him I saw he was going left and right."

Hill, whose performance thrilled a 120,000 crowd, said he was both pleased and disappointed.

"I'm very pleased for the team, although disappointed we didn't win it," Hill said. "I was getting to the point where I could think about winning the race, but whenever you think about that something happens."

Gabriela Szabo of Romania celebrates with her national flag after winning the women's 5000 metres. Szabo won the Gold medal in 14:57.68 minutes (Reuters photo)

Canada wins relay; Komen wins 5000m as marathon ends in dramatic finish

ATHENS (AFP) — Canada won the men's 4x100m gold at the World Championships here on Sunday in 37.86sec.

Nigeria won silver in 38.07 and Britain the bronze in 38.14.

Daniel Komen of Kenya won the men's 5,000m title with a time of 13:07.38.

Khalid Boulami of Morocco won the silver in 13:09.34 and Tom Nyariki of Kenya the bronze in 13:11.09.

In the women's high jump, Norway's Hanne Haugland took the gold medal clearing 1.99m.

Russia's Olga Kalitournina and Ukraine's Inga Babakova shared silver with 1.96m.

Meanwhile, Lars Riedel of Germany won the discus gold medal throwing 68.54m to edge out silver medalist Lithuania's Virgilijus Alekna (66.70m) and Jürgen Schult of Germany, who threw 66.14m for bronze.

Earlier, Abel Anton of Spain won a dramatic sprint finish to take the men's marathon.

Anton had spent the final 10 kilometres running on the shoulder of fellow Spaniard Martin Fiz, the two men having broken away and running alone and untroubled at the front.

As they closed in on the historic Panathinaikon Stadium it was the 34-year-old Anton who made a

move.

Just 500 metres from the entrance Anton slipped wide and went past the defending champion who could not match him.

Fiz, a former steeplechaser, could only watch his teammate going away from him towards his third marathon victory in three outings.

Anton finished in 2:13.16 and Fiz, who had decided to wear the same shoes that brought him success in Gothenburg two years ago, five seconds behind.

Australia's Steve Moneghetti won his first ever world championship medal, taking the bronze in 2:14.15.

Medals table at the start of the final day of competition at the world athletics championships on Sunday

Country	G	S	B
United States	6	2	7
Cuba	4	1	1
Germany	3	1	3
Kenya	2	2	1
Morocco	2	0	1
Czech Rep.	2	0	0
Russia	1	3	3
Ukraine	1	3	1
Portugal	1	2	1
Australia	1	1	1
Italy	1	1	1
Romania	1	1	1
Poland	1	1	0
South Africa	1	1	0
France	1	0	1
Japan	1	0	1
Mexico	1	0	1
Denmark	1	0	0
Ethiopia	1	0	0
New Zealand	1	0	0
Norway	1	0	0
Trinidad	1	0	0
Britain	0	4	0
Jamaica	0	3	1
Spain	0	2	1
Belarus	0	1	2
Greece	0	1	1
Canada	0	1	0
Finland	0	1	0
Namibia	0	1	0
Sri Lanka	0	1	0
Uganda	0	1	0
Bahamas	0	0	1
Brazil	0	0	1
Lithuania	0	0	1
Mozambique	0	0	1
Slovakia	0	0	1
Switzerland	0	0	1

Christie announces retirement

ATHENS (AFP) — Former European, world and Olympic 100 metres champion Linford Christie announced his retirement from athletics on Saturday.

"I woke up this morning and thought 'why bother?'" the 37-year-old told the BBC. "I was going to run on but really I don't see the point."

Christie, who won the Olympic title in Barcelona in 1992 and was world champion in 1993, said last year that he would not compete in any more major championships.

He has been a regular on the Grand Prix circuit before the current world champi-

onships and had intended to compete in the lucrative post-Athens races.

But just hours before he was due to fly to Zurich for next week's Weltklasse meet, he decided to call it a day.

"I still want to stay in shape, I'll still train but I want to see a bit more of my family," he said.

Christie, Europe's fastest-ever sprinter, said his world title in Stuttgart in 1993 was his greatest achievement.

"Everybody wants to win the Olympics but Andre Cason and Carl Lewis weren't there — it wasn't quite the same."

TODAY AT

CINEMA TEL:634144
PHILADELPHIA "1"
Steven Spielberg's
THE LOST WORLD (JURASSIC PARK)
Starring: Jeff Goldblum & Julian Moore
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:634144
PHILADELPHIA "2"
Jim Carrey ... in
LIAR LIAR
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:699238
PLAZA
Harrison Ford & Brad Pitt...in
DEVIL'S OWN
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:677420
CONCORD
CONCORD "1"
The movie event of the summer is here
Arnold Schwarzenegger ...in
BATMAN & ROBIN
(12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30)
CONCORD "2"
Jim Carrey...in
DUMB & DUMBER
Shows: 3:30, 6:00 only

Nabil & Hisham's Theatre
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AMN AI AI YA HO
performance starts at 8:30 p.m.
The theatre is closed every Friday.
For reservations call 625155

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Jordan Times Staff Reporter
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE
The bidding has
SOUTH WEST
Pass
4934 3A78
Pass
What do you bid
A - As far as we
is a no-brainer.
What should you
rebid promise a
ask us. Address
someone who is
interested.

Q. 4 - As South
hold:
4934 3A78
Pass
What do you bid
A - As far as we
is a no-brainer.
What should you
rebid promise a
ask us. Address
someone who is
interested.

Q. 5 - Both vul
you hold
41053 3A78
Pass
What do you bid
A - The auction
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really good refut-
er of cards — 4-3
fit is not the

Q. 6 - As South
hold:
476 3E4 C
The bidding has
SOUTH WEST
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Pass
What do you bid
A - We can thus
clever sequences
would reveal my
straightforward
fine to trump. I
many aces parts
to hearts as the
below a grand at

JBF requests ministry's help to fund men's team

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The cash-strapped Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) has appealed to the Ministry of Culture and Youth to help it finance the men's national team's participation in the 17th Asian Championship in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia Sept. 11-19.

JBF Secretary Mohammad Nabil Sunday told the Jordan Times that federation President Mudar Majdoub had met the ministry's secretary-general and was awaiting the reply in order to go ahead with plans for a training camp soon.

The team is now undergoing intense practice under new coach Imad Al Saeed after the JBF relieved the Ukrainian coach of his duties following the team's sixth place finish at the recently-concluded Pan-Arab Games in Beirut.

"We need to properly prepare the team and hope to secure funding for a training camp in East Europe or host two teams in Amman to evaluate preparedness

and tactics," Nabil explained.

Like other sports federations, the JBF has been facing a financial problem and cancelled the women's participation in the Asian Championship in Bangkok earlier in the year.

With most of its allocated budget spent on the women's and men's participation in the Pan-Arab Games the JBF is facing a serious issue.

The federation also cannot afford to decline participation as that would entail penalties by the Asian Basketball Confederation (ABC) especially after Jordan and Iran automatically qualified. Both teams took the two allocated slots following the withdrawal of Iraq and Syria from the West Asia pre-qualifiers which were due to be held in Tehran, Iran earlier this month.

Sixteen teams will be playing in Riyadh. The top five from the last championship and the hosts qualify automatically. There will also be two teams from each of the ABC's five

regional zones.

Jordan was due to host the four-team pre-qualifiers, but the JBF conceded the bid to Iran explaining that it would "be financially more rewarding."

Up to seven teams are eligible to contest qualifiers in the future as the West Asia zone also includes Palestine, Yemen and Lebanon, but the three are out this year since they have not paid their dues to the ABC.

Minor changes are expected on the lineup with top players like Hilal Barakat, Naser Bushnaq, Marwan Ma'touq and Yousef Zaghoul, missing the lineup.

After Mahmoud Sha'ban, Marwan Sa'edi, Naser Bassam and Jaid Sahleh left for varied reasons, the JBF named Ramez Ham-moudh, Ghaith Ennabi, Nihad Madi and Ala' Bil-beissi as replacement to join Zeid Alkhas, Ma'an Odeh, Yousef Abu Bakr, Naser Alawneh, Faisal Nsour, Ayman Du'yes, Naser Bassam and Fadi Saqqa.



China's Le Jingyi, gold medalist during the Atlanta Olympics women's 100m freestyle and 50m and 100m freestyle world record holder, powers on the water during a heat session of the women's 200m freestyle in the Pan Pacific Swimming Championships in Fukuoka, southwestern Japan (Reuters photo)

Sampras, Muster advance in Ohio

MASON (R) — Top-seeded Pete Sampras won an easy semifinal match to the boredom of fans at the ATP championship, but fifth-seeded Thomas Muster won a marathon victory to a standing ovation on Saturday.

Under blustery conditions, Sampras was determined to get the job done quickly against the 17th-ranked Costa, who he thrashed 6-3 6-4 in 64 minutes. He has beaten Costa all three times they have played.

The fourth-ranked Muster battled down to the wire to beat second-ranked Michael Chang 6-3 4-6 7-6 (7-2) in two hours, 16 minutes.

Sampras leads Muster 7-1 in their career meetings — Muster's one victory came indoors in the semifinals of the Essen, Germany tournament in 1995. Muster, who now leads Chang 6-2 in their head-to-head record, employed a wicked forehand and powerful backhand to take Chang out of his usual game style.

"I like to play him," Muster said. "His game suits me. I trouble him a lot because he can't run me around like he does with the other players."

Muster played a brilliant first set, winning all 16 points he served in four service games.

In the second set, Muster had a 5-3 lead on the strength of two break points on Chang's serve in the eighth game. Chang prevailed in the game and went on to break Muster

at love in the next game.

The third set was hotly contested, but Muster blasted Chang off the court with his ferocious forehand in the tie-breaker.

"In the tie-breaker I really went for my shots," Muster said. "I was hitting more winners and was more aggressive. That's why I deserved to win the match even though it was a third set tie-breaker."

Wanting to avoid getting into long rallies, where the wind might dictate play more than his own game, Sampras relied on his potent serve. In the first set of the match, Sampras served four of five service games at love.

"It was kind of the shot that won me the match today because it was very tough conditions with the wind," Sampras said. "It was gusting all around the court. It was tough for us to get any rhythm out there when we got into these baseline rallies. But I served really big."

Since Wimbledon began, Sampras lost his serve four times in 11 matches played which translates to winning 152 of the last 156 games played.

"There's a certain time of year you just get into a good rhythm," Sampras said. "I think I disguise it really well. I think my ball toss is pretty much the same for every serve and accuracy is just as important as power."

Davenport beats Hingis, meets Seles in final

MANHATTAN BEACH

(R) — Monica Seles easily defeated Amy Frazier 6-0 6-2 Saturday night to reach the finals of the \$450,000 Acra Classic tennis tournament where she will face Lindsay Davenport, who upset Martina Hingis earlier in the day.

"I'm happy that I was attacking," said Seles, who banged out 23 winners, she committed just 13 unforced errors in the 51-minute drubbing. "My serve was going well. Everything was going quite well tonight."

Davenport, seeded fourth, will be looking for her fourth title of the year after eliminating a tired Hingis 6-2 4-6 6-4.

Of the final against Davenport, Seles said: "The ball is going to be hit very hard. There will be a lot of long rallies."

Seles ruled the tennis world during 1991-93 but the 23-year-old was forced to the sidelines for 28 months after she was stabbed in the back by a Steffi Graf fan on court in

Berlin in 1993.

The former No. 1 showed flashes of her brilliance against Frazier in the blowout.

Frazier, the 1994 champion had upset third seed South African Amanda Coetzer and fifth-seed Spaniard Arantxa Sanchez to force a duel against Seles. But the world's No. 3 player displayed her untiring ground game to dictate the lopsided win.

"I got killed," lamented Frazier the 1994 champion. "I couldn't get into the match at all. She didn't let me play. Once she gains control of the point, she's unbeatable. She hits so deep, so hard, there was nothing I could do."

Seles raced through the opening set in 26 minutes. Frazier offered a stiffer challenge in the second set but Seles easily answered it.

Each player traded service breaks to open the second set. Seles, however, continued to pound away from the baseline and ran

off the next five games for the quick victory.

The last time Hingis lost was in the French Open championship match to Iva Majoli of Croatia. After that defeat, Hingis ran off 17 consecutive victories before Saturday's defeat. She is 56-2 on the year.

Hingis blamed the grind of three consecutive weeks on the tour for contributing to her defeat. "I'm tired," said Hingis, who appeared unmotivated against Davenport. "Lindsay was just the better player but it gets a little bit tiring to be on tour for three weeks."

"Finally I can go home (to Switzerland) tomorrow, relax and then be ready for the U.S. Open. You always have to think positive," she laughed. Everything hurts me now.

"The win to me, beating the World No. 1 is extremely rewarding," said Davenport. The world's seventh-ranked player after the one-hour, 38-minute match. "Hopefully, it will carry me through tomorrow."

Asprilla fills the gap for Newcastle; Arsenal draw

LONDON (R) — Colombian international Faustino Asprilla scored twice on Saturday to give Newcastle a winning start to the new English season and make up for injured Alan Shearer's absence.

The fiery attacker grabbed the fastest goal of the day as last season's runners-up beat Sheffield Wednesday 2-1 at St James' Park, plundering the first after one minute 48 seconds and the second in the 72nd minute.

The goals calmed anxious magpies fans and answered one of the big pre-season questions — namely who would score Newcastle's goals in the absence of Shearer and last season's strike partner Les Ferdinand.

Ferdinand has been sold to Tottenham, who host champions Manchester United on Sunday. Asprilla also fulfilled another popular prediction — that a foreigner would score the first goal in a Premier League flooded by fresh imports over the summer.

Italian Benito Carbone equalised for Wednesday in the eighth minute but Newcastle, who play Croatia Zagreb in a European Cup qualifier next week, made the running and had three goals disallowed in the first half.

A home-grown player outscored the Colombian, with Coventry's Dion Dublin hitting the first hat-trick of the season in a late 3-2 home win against Chelsea on a day of sweltering heat around the country.

Liverpool, with Paul Ince making his debut as captain, also nearly suffered an upset.

The favourites to replace Manchester United as champions made a shaky start at Wimbledon despite strong performances from new signings Ince and German international Karlheinz Riedle.

Marcus Gayle sent Wimbledon ahead in the 55th minute before Michael Owen equalised from a penalty, awarded after Vinie Jones felled Riedle.

Arsenal, another team fancied for the title, drew 1-1 at former manager George Graham's Leeds. Ian Wright put Arsenal ahead in the 35th minute but Dutch signing Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink equalised in the 42nd.

Crystal Palace's new Italian signing from Juventus, Attilio Lombardo, scored on his debut, splitting the Everton defence as promoted Palace won 2-1.

Newcomers Barnsley, appearing in the top flight for the first time in their 110-year history, made a dream start at home to West Ham when Neil Redfearn scored after nine minutes but faded and lost 2-1.

"It wasn't an ideal first game," said West Ham manager Harry Redknapp. "Barnsley away was always going to be a big crowd...it was a tough game."

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMAR HIRSCH

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q. 1 - Neither vulnerable, no South you hold:
47 ♠A1063 ♣KJ AQJ9865
- The bidding has proceeded:
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
1♣ Pass 2♣ Pass
3NT Pass 4NT Pass
What do you bid now?
- A - There is a possibility that five clubs would be a better spot than three no trump, but bidding three hearts runs too great a risk of a calamity later. We would opt for three no trump and hope for the best.
- Q. 2 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:
4KQ65 ♠AKQ63 ♣void 4K1076
- The bidding has proceeded:
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
1♣ Pass 2♣ Pass
3NT Pass 4NT Pass
What do you bid now?
- A - Slam is in the offing, possibly a grand, and you must tell partner of your hopes as quickly as possible. The simplest way to get the message across is to cue-bid four diamonds. That also, for the moment at least, confirms clubs as the trump suit.
- Q. 3 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
4A QJ1063 ♠22 ♣KJ7 A48
- The bidding has proceeded:
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
1♣ Pass 2♣ Pass
3NT Pass 4NT Pass
What do you bid now?
- A - Since you have a certain eight-card fit in hearts, there is a reasonable argument for a club cue-bid now to show slam interest. However, spades might well be a better suit in which to declare, so you should suggest that possibility by rebidding three spades now. That is forcing because of North's
- jump, and partner's rebid will point the way to proceed.
- Q. 4 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:
4951 ♠A7643 ♣K AAJ104
- The bidding has proceeded:
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
1♣ Pass 2♣ Pass
3NT Pass 4NT Pass
What do you bid now?
- A - As far as we are concerned this is a no-brainer. Rebid two hearts. What should you do if the heart rebid promise a six-card suit? Don't ask us. Address your inquiry to someone who insists on such a silly method.
- Q. 5 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
41053 ♠AJ10 ♣A9832 442
- The bidding has proceeded:
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
1♣ Pass 2♣ Pass
3NT Pass 4NT Pass
What do you bid now?
- A - The auction has not developed well for you, and now you have no really good rebid. Settle for the lesser of evils — raise to two hearts. A 4-3 fit is not the end of the world.
- Q. 6 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:
476 ♠KJ4 ♣KQJ104 4KQ9
- The bidding has proceeded:
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
1♣ Pass 2♣ Pass
3NT Pass 4NT Pass
What do you bid now?
- A - We can think of all sorts of clever sequences, but doubt if any would reveal much more than a straightforward ace-asking bid of four no trump. Depending on how many aces partner shows, convert to hearts at the appropriate level below a grand slam.

AMERICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL AMMAN - JORDAN



Registration Pre-K-12 for the 1997/98 school year is scheduled for tomorrow, Tuesday, August 12, 1997 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon in the school's gymnasium. For more information please call 813944 or 813946

JORDAN TIMES
TEL:
699634,
684311

JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY CO., TENDER NOS. 6,7,8/97 UPGRADING OF AMMAN, SALADIN AND ZARQA LPG FILLING STATION PROJECTS

Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co. announces the extension of the a.m. tender according to the following dates:

- Submission of prequalification documents not later than 12:00 hrs of 13.9.1997 at the company Head Office.
- Eligible contractors to obtain tender documents from the company's head office against non-refundable JD200 per set. Not later than 12:30 hrs of 22.9.1997
- Offers must be submitted at the company's head office with an alternative offer with finance not later than 12:00 hrs of Sunday 19.10.1997.

Chairman

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Australia wins U-22 basketball final

MELBOURNE (AP) —

Guard Aaron Trahair led Australia to its first gold medal at the Under-22 World Basketball Championship as it downed Puerto Rico 88-73 in the final at Melbourne Park on Sunday.

Trahair, whose last second shot won the semi-final against Argentina Saturday, followed up with 18 points and a strong defensive game in the championship game.

Trahair's defense played a crucial role as Australia hustled Puerto Rico's dangerous three point shooters, Eddin Santiago, Carmelo Travieso and Edgar Padilla away from the danger zone.

Puerto Rico had won all seven matches in the tournament before the final. Seven players on the Australian roster played in the world under 20 championships two years ago when they lost the final to Greece.

"The guys on that team here made a decision that we're going to win this one," Trahair said.

Yugoslavia's top two shooters Vlado Scepanovic and Dragan Lukovski returned to form after a semi-final loss against Puerto Rico to lead their side to the bronze medal.

Scepanovic finished with 22 points while Lukovski had 20 in an 84-72 win over Argentina.

Argentina's top scorer was Leandro Palladino with 24 but the team, devastated by the manner of its semi-final loss, had too many players dragging their feet.

Potent shooter Emanuel Ginobili scored just two points, from free throws, and missed all six attempts from three point range and two others from the field. The United States, which won the only previous Under 22 championships in Spain four years ago, laboured to fifth with a 61-58 win clinched when Turkey missed a three-point



Australian players celebrate after winning their game at the Under-22 Youth World Basketball Championship in Melbourne (Reuters photo)

attempt to tie the game.

U.S. Coach Rick Majerus, of Utah, was forced to defend bringing a below standard team to Australia.

Only one player, guard Cory Carr, was in the team which won the qualifying tournament in Puerto Rico last year.

NBA contracts and requirements, the risk of injury and the clash with summer training camps in the U.S. all drained the side of its leading players.

"It's frustrating but nothing can be done about it," Majerus said. "They aren't the best players and they aren't emblematic of USA basketball."

"We were over matched but this mattered to US. We tried the best we could and

these players are better for it."

Spain won the play-off for seventh by ending a run of four straight losses to beat Lithuania 81-72.

Guard Rodrigo de la Fuente led the attack with 19 points.

South Korea beat Egypt 78-62 in the play-off for ninth while New Zealand beat China 85-66 to finish 11th.

Joo-Yup Hyun was game high scorer with 23.

New Zealand guard Mark Dickel, who has performed consistently throughout the championships, again top scored, amassing 23 points while China's major contributor was Lipeng Jin with 13 points.

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Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co. Ltd., announces Tender Invitation No. 10/97 for the design, supply, installation (excluding civil works) and commissioning of "Upgrading LPG Cylinders Factory (cylinder capacity 26.2 litre) Project" at Zarqa which includes all materials, machines and equipment required for the above mentioned project.

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Contractors who possess experience in the same field and are qualified financially and technically, and who wish to participate in the above tender, are invited to submit their offers at the company's head office not later than 12:00 hrs of 9/11/1997. With an alternative offer with finance.

- Tenderers should include with their offers the following:
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 - Technical capability of the contractor, including details of experience and background of personnel, specifications of available equipment, etc.
 - Detailed documents showing similar projects executed by the contractor, full names and addresses of firms, for whom such services were rendered, and details of projects including contract cost and completion periods.

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